



# Home & Middle East News

## S. Arabia says Sharia to remain

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia will not bow to pressure and will continue to implement Islamic laws, including the beheading of criminals, Saudi newspapers said on Friday.

Editorials in three newspapers indirectly attacked Turkey, which has warned Saudi Arabia not to execute any more Turks after four were beheaded last week for trying to smuggle in drugs.

Al Madina daily said the kingdom would not change its Islamic laws "whatever the contradictions and challenges."

The country will continue to implement Islamic Sharia laws on all those who live on its territory regardless of religion," said Al Akhbar daily.

All four in apparent reference to Turkey asked: "Will they allow us to demand our share of their legislation? Or will they consider it an interference in their internal affairs and their constitution and an insult of their sovereignty?"

A Turkish official arrived in Saudi Arabia on Friday to plead for the lives of 40 Turks facing execution by the sword, many for smuggling an aphrodisiac drug into the strictly Islamic kingdom, Turkey's Anatolian news agency said.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's envoy Nevzat Yalcintas and a Foreign Ministry official hoped to meet senior Saudi officials and maybe King Fahd to ask him for clemency, Anatolian said.

Turkey says 40 other Turkish prisoners in Saudi Arabia are awaiting execution or are being tried on capital charges. At least 22 of them had been accused of smuggling the aphrodisiac captagon.

Captagon contains amphetamine, not normally considered a hard drug by most enforcement agencies. Turkish police say captagon smugglers caught in Turkey would rarely be given long prison terms.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly and clearly warned that drug smugglers would be executed.

Anatolian said envoy Yalcintas, a professor of economics and former senior figure in an Islamic bank, would try to persuade Saudi officials to allow the Turks facing the death sentence to be punished in their home country.

## 8 killed in Mogadishu shootings; talks called

MOGADISHU (AP) — Militiamen enforcing a unilateral disarmament issued by General Mohammad Farrah Aideed killed eight people in Mogadishu on Thursday.

Three of the dead were private guards at Laforce maternity hospital. Three others were armed herdsmen who brought camels to Mogadishu for sale and two were passengers in a bus.

A radio station controlled by General Aideed said only that an unspecified number of gunmen were arrested for illegal possession of arms.

Three UN journalists and 11 policemen shot the guards and herdsmen without asking any questions.

Gen. Aideed's supporters include representatives of Somaliland, the self-proclaimed president of the secessionist Somaliland republic, who are the only factions not attending the monthlong talks in Nairobi that led to the agreement.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
14:30 ... Back to the Future  
14:30 ... Harry and the Hendersons  
15:00 ... Road to Avonlea  
16:00 ... Families  
17:00 ... Children's programme — Doug  
18:00 ... Doc — Peletier  
18:00 ... Orana — Place En Gare A Vuc  
19:00 ... News in French  
19:15 ... Magazine — Fau Pas Rover  
19:30 ... New Headlines  
19:35 ... Oct — End to Silence  
20:00 ... Major Dad  
20:30 ... The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:15 ... Dr. Quinn—Medicine Woman  
22:00 ... News in English  
22:25 ... Film: "Ride With the Wind"  
23:00 ... Noble House

## PRAYER TIMES

Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:39 ... Dhuhur

16:18 ... 'Asr

19:21 ... Maghrib

20:45 ... 'Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swiebel, Tel: 810740

Saudi Arabia has said executions will go ahead in accordance with its Islamic law, which demands the public execution by the sword of rapists, murderers, drug smugglers and violent armed robbers.

Turkish Muslim figures have challenged the Islamic basic of the beheadings.

Up to 141 people have been beheaded in Saudi Arabia this year, mostly for smuggling drugs.

Ms. Ciller, on a visit to the central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan, said Wednesday Turkey was considering withdrawing its ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

"We're evaluating that at the moment. If this continues, it is one of the things to be considered," Ms. Ciller was quoted by Anatolian as saying in response to a question.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel sent a message to King Fahd on Monday over the beheading of the four Turks — two on Friday, two on Monday — "expressing his sadness and calling for the lives of the remaining prisoners to be spared," a spokesman said.

The executions caused a furor in secular Turkey. Outraged relatives and friends of the dead and those jailed have burned Saudi flags in streets and chanted slogans against King Fahd.

Gift-shop owners in Bethlehem, the traditional birthplace of Jesus nested in the Judean hills, are depressed.

Day after day they watch thousands of foreigners climb out of air-conditioned buses into the Nativity church and straight back into the buses.

Anton Michel, 60, swore that not a single tourist had entered his premises on Manger Square for a week. Dusi covered the olive wood crosses and mother of pearl boxes spilling over the shelves.

"I can't pay the telephone and electricity bills things are so bad," he complained.

"The tourist minister (Elias Freij) and his officials have



A Palestinian resident of Hebron argues with an Israeli soldier at the entrance of the Ibrahim Mosque in the city. Israel on Friday announced it was closing the mosque for three days (AFP photo)

## Palestinians play spot the tourist

BETHLEHEM (AFP) —

Visitors are pouring into the holy land in unprecedented numbers, but the Palestinians attract little of the business.

nine months after officially taking charge of tourism on the West Bank.

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"I can't pay the telephone and electricity bills things are so bad," he complained.

"The tourist minister (Elias Freij) and his officials have

done nothing to improve the situation since they took over last year."

Mr. Michel and his fellow shopkeepers accuse tourist guides, both Israeli and Palestinians, of taking visitors to only a small clique of shops outside the town in return for a percentage of the town.

"Unfortunately they only visit Bethlehem and do not stay the night because they are with Israeli travel agencies.

"And there are none of the facilities and evening entertainment here that you find in Israel," he admitted.

Mr. Samour said there was no alternative but to pay the guides to bring tourists into the shops. "But the commissions should be fixed," he added.

There are plenty of visitors in the self-reliant enclave of Jericho too. But none stay

because there is not a single hotel.

It is not easy to find the one of the main attractions — the impressive eight century ruins of Hisham's Palace — because there are no signs leading to the site on the edge of the Jordan Valley oasis.

Renovations are badly needed, but will cost an estimated three million dollars.

"We do not have the money. We are waiting for help from donor countries to start," said Hamza Al Smadi, who is in charge of communications at the tourism ministry.

"To generate tourism, you have to control borders and channel through tourists," he said, seated at a desk in the caravan which the ministry has set up as its headquarters in Jericho.

"And for the time being, Israel does all that."

## 2 farmers, 4 militants killed in South Egypt

ASSUIT (R) — Egyptian police shot dead four suspected Muslim militants in a gun battle in southern Egypt, security sources said on Friday.

Suspected Muslim militants killed two civilians and wounded another in a separate incident when they attacked a farm, the sources added.

Both attacks took place on Thursday afternoon in the southern Egyptian province of Minya where militants have concentrated their low-level guerrilla war in the past few months.

In the first incident, militants opened fire on a police convoy driving through a village near the town of Samalut in northern Minya, the sources said.

Police returned fire killing four militants, who they later described as "dangerous elements." There were no police casualties, the sources said.

In the second incident, which took place in Bani Obeid village in Abu Qir, Suspected Muslim militants killed two civilians and wounded another in northern Minya, the sources said.

Police returned fire killing four militants, who they later described as "dangerous elements."

Western journalists who witnessed this exchange were equally astonished.

The charter jet which the

Talebans forced to land at Kandahar had been ferrying a large supply of Kalashnikov ammunition to rival factions based in the Afghan capital Kabul, and the detained crew were accused of being agents of the Russian government.

Yet the Talebans saw no contradiction in asking Russian charter company executives negotiating for the release of their crew to buy them spare motor parts from their United Arab Emirates (UAE) base of Sharjah.

"This is a separate issue."

## Talebans hold crew of Russian arms plane as bargaining chip

KANDAHAR (AFP) — A Russian businessman, here to try to obtain the release of seven of his air crew, was astonished when the first thing he was asked by the Taliban captors was to provide spare parts for a derelict motor car.

"Can you get us some spare parts for the Chevrolet's gear-box?" the black-bearded turbaned Taleban asked his clean-shaven tie-wearing visitor.

The visitor, the general manager of the charter company whose transport jet had been hijacked by the Talebans week before, was astonished, but quickly regained his composure.

"Yes, we will try," he ventured cautiously.

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"This is a separate issue."

the Talebans stated simply.

The Talebans, a self-declared force of militant religious students, have been little understood ever since they rose from obscurity to international attention with their dramatic capture of Kandahar earlier this year.

With their ranks reportedly swollen by defectors from the former Afghan communist regime (a point hotly denied by the Talebans), they captured some 10 provincial capitals and closed on Kabul, although the forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani checked their advance there.

He said if the cargo jet was ever flown out of Afghan airspace it would be seized by the local authorities wherever it landed.

In face of new demands by the Talebans, this legal point seems academic.

The Kandahar shura (ruling council) of the religious students has now asked the Russian government to supply it with information concerning the fate of 60,000 "missing-in-action" Afghans they alleged had been forcibly carried off to the former Soviet Union.

While the Russian authorities ponder this awkward if not impossible demand, life goes on as normal in Kandahar.

"Strict enforcement of Islamic religious law according to Talebans interpretation has led to the conversion of the city's only cinema into a mosque.

The Talebans have impounded the 30-odd-tonnes of AK-47 ammunition and

waterproofed the plane.

Claiming to be acting on

information received by secret agents living in Kabul the Talebans sent a MiG-21 interceptor aloft to force the UAE-based Russian charter company cargo jet to land at Kandahar airport.

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pounded the 30-odd-tonnes of AK-47 ammunition and

waterproofed the plane.

Victor Butt, the general manager of the Transavia company which leased the plane from a Russian-based air-transport company called Airstar, told journalists that according to international law the Talebans would never be able to use the hijacked aircraft.

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**BRIEF**

on satellite

run Tele-Liban has been satellite Europe, on a satellite channel. Friday, Mr. Naim al-Ghamdi has raised £35 million and is buying sophisticated equipment to start with game shows. Political shows and news aim said, Tele-Liban which covers Europe, the Arab basin and is already in Dubai. The sale of Tele-Liban was the first as well as to 700,000 in the Arab World.

rebels in east

ops killed 15 Kurds in the eastern province of Isra. "At least 15 people found dead and injured," official said. "We think, he told Reuters chief in Tuncel's Name, been killed in the independence or autonomy.

a envoy to Israel

Department of Foreign Affairs Manila's ambassador to the United States, Tomas Padovaldo de Perio said, a team of Philippine officials, including Ms. Perla Garcia. The ambassador made the allegations in his recall. Some Manila 21, had bought some gold, nothing illegal in the turn over the past two years.

en, children

resident Omar Hassan; II women prisoners at news agency SUNA said, he issued the order a world conference. Gen. Bashir said it's issues because he is equal to men. "It's a tie with the stand and in assuming responsibilities," he said.

actions if

against Iraq

Gulf war, and Asia provides bases for Western jets that enforced a "no fly zone" over Kuwait. In northern Iraq, the Libyan leader wants a dangerous problem. In-Turkish relations are again moves to the U.S. effort.

is feared that our

in the operation

torturing and

Iraqi people," he said.

added: "If Iraq is content to participate in the campaign of aggression and offensives which America is waging... there will certainly be an infamous loss for Turkey in the Long War."

Washington is inventing stories to strengthen its position in the Gulf," said the of the Kurds, who is political commentator of the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

"Why didn't the U.S. express its concerns at the time?" INA said.

"Col. Qadhafi said he had given any of the movements, while Kurds in Turkey asked of the movements, it was observed over the past five weeks."

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# Chechen negotiators warn they might quit peace talks

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen negotiators warned Friday they might break off peace talks after an outbreak of fighting jeopardised efforts to implement a Russian-Chechen military accord.

"For unknown and incomprehensible reasons, Russia is placing us in circumstances under which the peace process simply cannot be continued," Akhmad Idigov, speaker of the Chechen separatist parliament, told Moscow Echo radio.

"After the bombing of Chechen villages by Russian warplanes it will be hard to persuade people to surrender their weapons and hand over prisoners," he said.

Russian warplanes bombed Chechen separatist forces Thursday near the village of Roshni Chu, some 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny, in an eruption of fighting which threatened to scupper the joint military accord signed July 30.

Russian defence ministry spokesman said the air raids came after Chechen forces attacked Russian troops.

Separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's spokesman, Movladi Udugov, told Moscow Echo Friday that the Chechen delegation "is suspending all official contacts with the Russian side and is not prepared to resume talks to find a peaceful solution to the conflict."

However, Russian and Chechen military officials continued talks in Grozny

aimed at speeding up the disarmament of Chechen fighters in line with the accord.

Under the agreement, Chechen fighters are due to surrender their weapons and self-defence units of up to 25 lightly armed men are to be set up in villages as Russian troops withdraw.

Russia is to leave behind one brigade of interior ministry troops and one mechanised brigade of army troops in Chechnya for a total of about 6,000 troops.

But disagreements over disarmament and lists of prisoners have held up implementation of the accord.

The Russian military command said Friday that seven Russian soldiers were wounded in clashes with Chechen fighters in the past 24 hours, and the rebels fired on Russian troops 22 times overnight using automatic weapons and rocket-launchers.

Meanwhile, a blast rocked Grozny's main power station overnight, depriving the city of its newly-restored supply of electricity, the Interfax news agency reported.

Chechen fighters handed over a small quantity of weapons in the southeastern village of Zandak Wednesday, and more weapons were surrendered in the Shali and Gudermes districts Thursday, but clashes in Achkhoy Maran and other areas of western Chechnya later disrupted the disarmament plans.

Anatoly Romanov, Russian military commander in Chechnya, and Aslan Maskhadov, commander of Chechen forces, sent representatives to Achkhoy Maran, a village 40 kilometres southwest of the devastated Chechen capital, to balt the fighting there.

Mr. Romanov and Mr. Maskhadov have held talks almost daily since the military accord was signed.

The Russian delegation proposed that talks on Chechnya's future political status should be postponed pending progress over demilitarisation of the small Caucasus republic.

However, Chechen delegation leader Khodzha-Akhmed Yarikhanov said Thursday political talks would resume in Grozny Aug. 21.

Both sides are still far apart on the status issue, with the Chechens demanding independence and the Russians insisting that the republic remains part of the Russian Federation.

Russian troops stormed into Chechnya Dec. 4 to crush a three-year independence drive led by Mr. Dudayev.

A fragile ceasefire has been in effect since June 20.

The Chechen side brought five Russian prisoners to Grozny Thursday.

Hussein Iskhanov, an aide

to Mr. Maskhadov, said three of the five were not included in a list of seven which the Chechen negotiators had presented to the Russian side.



ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTESTS: A female demonstrator shouts anti-Chinese nuclear test slogans in front of the Chinese embassy in Tokyo Friday. About 16 leftist protesters staged a demonstration against Thursday's second nuclear test by China (AFP photo)

TOKYO Friday. About 16 leftist protesters staged a demonstration against Thursday's second nuclear test by China (AFP photo)

# NATO, former Soviet bloc foes wage joint exercises

FORT POLK, LA. (R) — Troop planes, helicopters and trucks lined up on Friday to ferry 1,200 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and former Soviet bloc foes into one of their most realistic joint military exercises yet in a programme that is to lead to some of the old foes' NATO membership.

The former adversaries are training together in the sixth major partnership for peace, military exercise, the first to be conducted in the United States.

The troops from three NATO countries and 14 former Soviet bloc countries were to be blown and trucked into a supposed buffer zone between two hostile countries on an Atlantic island.

Fort Polk has one of the most realistic training programmes in the world and actors were on hand to play angry mobs and badly wounded civilians. U.S. soldiers were assigned to be

snipers and bandits.

Colonel Ray Fitzgerald, one of the officers in charge of the exercise, said the troops flying in went through an airplane safety drill on Thursday and he saw so many blank stares of non-understanding that a second drill was ordered.

That is because the biggest problem the partnership for peace military exercises have encountered is the obvious one: The language barrier.

Partnership for Peace

troops are to participate only in peacekeeping operations. But NATO is to formally decide in the next few months whether to accept some of the former Soviet bloc countries into NATO and the timetable and conditions for doing so.

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are widely regarded to be the first of them to become NATO members. Hungary's prime minister, Gyula Horn, has said he believes it will become a NATO member in 1997.

But a group of British soldiers took the language problem in stride.

"It's a little slower but we get there in the end," said Private Paul Braizer, 24.

He said he saw convivial-

ity, not hostility, among the troops from so many countries — "swapping T-shirts, things like that."

The soldiers are from the United States, Britain, Canada, Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Partnership for Peace

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# Tamil rebels step up attacks, wound 16 security personnel

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil rebels Friday attacked army troops and a police post in separate incidents in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast, wounding 16 security personnel and losing three of their own, military officials said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed government troops in northern Mahawachchiya after an armoured personnel carrier in which the soldiers were travelling escaped being hit by a rebel mine, officials said.

Having failed to blow up the military vehicle, LTTE rebels attacked the troops and army reinforcements sent extensively to repair work," Mr. Munasinghe said, adding that airforce pilots had not seen any activity at the rebel airfield.

They said troops beat off the attack but LTTE casualties were not immediately known.

LTTE guerrillas attacked a police post in eastern Batticaloa district but the pre-dawn assault was repulsed, leaving at least three LTTE rebels

dead, officials said. Two constables at the Puliyadi police post were wounded.

The rebel attacks followed intense aerial strikes on LTTE targets in the past week.

On Tuesday, the airforce destroyed a Tiger naval facility in eastern Veralgam, killing three rebels, and bombed an LTTE airfield in northern Iranama in a two-day period, military spokesman Sarah Munasinghe said.

"We have bombed and damaged it to such an extent that the airfield cannot be used unless the terrorists start extensive repair work," Mr. Munasinghe said, adding that airforce pilots had not seen any activity at the rebel airfield.

Witnesses said about 400 people were in cars, buses and vans heading to the holy city of Kataragama, 180 kilometres south of Colombo, for a Buddhist ceremony.

The demonstration was led by nationalist politician Dinesh Gunawardena, who

has said he is against any plan

to wait until LTTE are defeated.

The government this month announced a long-awaited "peace plan" giving extensive autonomy to Tamilis to try to end the 12-year ethnic conflict in which more than 30,000 people have died.

The plan was welcomed by Western governments and all Tamil parties except the Sri Lankan government's plans to give autonomy to minority Tamils.

Justice Minister G.L. Peiris on Thursday ruled out further talks with the Tigers, saying the rebels had rejected previous offers to discuss the peace plan.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan authorities said Friday they were still mystified about badly decomposed bodies of young males whose appearance in lakes and waterways close to the capital Colombo has revived chilling memories on the island.

# Chilean premier to weaken military

SANTIAGO (R) — President Eduardo Frei will try to amend Chile's constitution to weaken the influence of the country's powerful armed forces in politics, officials said Thursday.

At the same time, Mr. Frei will bow to military wishes and propose a law that would limit trials of officers accused of committing human rights abuses during Chile's former military regime, officials said.

The give-and-take strategy was clearly aimed at soothing Mr. Frei's strained relations with the armed forces on the human rights issue while giving him more control over the military, which ruled Chile for 17 years until 1990.

The president's initiative will seek to overcome pending problems in the areas of national reconciliation and consolidation of our democratic institutions," said chief spokesman Jose Joaquin Brunner.

Elected in 1993, Mr. Frei nominally controls the military as commander-in-chief, but the real power is held by army commander and former dictator General Augusto Pinochet, whom Mr. Frei is barred by law from removing.

Mr. Frei will propose abolishing eight military-appointed seats in the Chi-

# India: rescuing hostages must be last resort

SRINAGAR, India (AP) —

As security experts gathered in Kashmir, the Indian governor said Friday a rescue operation to free four Western hostages from separatist guerrillas must be "a last resort."

K.V. Krishna Rao, the federally appointed governor of Jammu-Kashmir state, said a military rescue would be difficult without risking the hostages' lives, but he didn't rule out the option if negotiations fail.

"You have to have patience to see that all the difficulties have a chance to succeed," Mr. Rao said in an interview at the governor's mansion.

"If we launched an operation to rescue the hostages in the high Himalayas, the captors would probably see it coming and have time to decide to eliminate the hostages," said Mr. Rao, a retired general and former army commander.

The military's lingering power to politics has often been a point of embarrassment for Chile's civilian rulers as they try to project a more modern image for the country, which has a booming economy and is due to join NAFTA next year.

A previously unknown

# Bermuda premier to resign as independence is rejected

HAMILTON, Bermuda (R) —

— Bermuda, a British territory for almost 100 years, voted overwhelmingly against independence, officials said on Thursday, prompting its longtime prime minister to resign.

Although the electoral outcome parallels opinion polls before the vote, it cast the colony's government into disarray, as longtime Premier Sir John Swan said he would keep his promise to resign if independence were rejected.

"He has reaffirmed this morning his decision to leave as soon as they can find a successor for him," said Gavin Shorto, director of Government Information Services, after the results were released.

In London Tim Devlin, a member of parliament disclosed that Al Faran made his announcement after the release of election results early on Thursday showing 73.7 per cent of voters had said "no" to independence, compared with 25.6 per cent in favour.

Electoral officials said the vote against independence was 16,369 while those in favour numbered 5,714. Bermuda's population of about 60,000 includes 38,000 eligible voters.

"My letter of resignation was predicated on the outcome," Mr. Swan told the Royal Gazette, Bermuda's only daily newspaper, in Thursday's edition.

Mr. Swan was not expected to submit a formal resignation to Governor Lord David Waddington, the queen's representative in Bermuda and technically the head of state, until his UBP has elected a successor.

A caucus of senior members of the party and UBP members of parliament and senators was due to meet late Friday to try to select a successor. But political observers said no clear candidate has appeared.

The UBP will stay in power until there is a general elec-

tion, which political observers do not expect soon.

The vote was Bermuda's first-ever independence referendum. The Atlantic archipelago was first inhabited by Britons in 1609 when a ship bound for Virginia founded there. It became part of the Virginia Company's dominions in 1612 and a royal colony in 1684.

Most Bermudians, who enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living, had questioned why their political leaders favoured independence.

Bermuda, with pink sand beaches and a balmy climate, prides itself on a stable, low-tax, business-friendly environment. Crime is very low and unemployment practically non-existent.

Mr. Swan's ruling party was split over the issue. The opposition Labour Party favoured independence but urged supporters to stay away from the polls.

Many feared the uncertainties of independence would drive away well-paying offshore businesses. Opponents also argued that with independence Bermudians would lose the advantages of travelling with British passports and the security of knowing the British military was available in a crisis.

"We are prepared to assist in curbing crime, corruption and violence by recruiting members of the community and ex-prisoners to infiltrate crime syndicates and racketeers," it said.

China city gives free oxygen to traffic cops

BELING (R) — The owner of an "oxygen bar" in China's northeastern city of Dalian is offering free doses to traffic police who spend all day breathing the city's noxious carbon-monoxide fumes, Xinhua news agency said Friday. The owner of the oxygen bar in the city of Dalian has issued special cards to 350 local traffic policemen, allowing them to go to his bar to inhale pure oxygen once a week, it said. The oxygen content of normal air is 21 per cent oxygen, but due to pollution in China's industrial north the percentage is often lower, and people breathing such air become easily tired, Xinhua said. An adult needs 500 litres of oxygen a day, it said. Inhaling pure oxygen helps people to relax and become more energetic, it said. China already has oxygen bars in Beijing, Fuzhou, Hangzhou and Shenzhen in the south and the northeastern industrial metropolis of Shenyang.

Thai AIDS scare boosts child prostitution in Manila

MANILA (AFP) — The AIDS epidemic in Thailand has caused a rapid increase in child prostitution in the Philippines, a Filipino senator said Friday. Senate labour committee chairman Ernesto Herrera said in a statement that there was an "increasing number of suspected foreign pedophiles visiting Manila," where he said the bulk of the pedophiles visiting Manila, where he said the bulk of the country's 60,000 male and prostitutes aged 15 and below may be attributed to the increasing number of HIV-positive prostitutes in Thailand, as reported by the United Nations Children's Fund in a study," he said in a statement. Mr. Herrera, who is seeking the death penalty for child abuse, said three Britons, two Australians and a Frenchman have been detained by Philippine authorities on suspicion that they sexually abused children.

Michael Jackson goes online with fans worldwide

NEW YORK (R) — Pop star Michael Jackson went online with his fans for the first time on Thursday night, giving them an earful about his marriage, music and the media. "Never believe that tabloid garbage," Mr. Jackson wrote online when asked about a British tabloid newspaper report that he was on the verge of divorcing Lisa Marie Presley, daughter of Elvis. "Don't waste your time or money. No, it's not true," Mr. Jackson told the thousands who logged onto a question and answer session with the king of pop on three online computer services that was broadcast on MTV along with some of his best-known music videos. The event was dominated by questions such as which superhero Mr. Jackson would like to be (possibly Batman) and who would he choose to be out of anyone dead or alive. He said Michaelangelo.

Clinton just swinging around in Wyoming

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (R) — Rafting, hiking, fishing, horseback riding — it's all there for Bill Clinton in the Tetons Mountains. But so far he's sticking to the old reliable: Knocking little white balls around with a club. On the second day of his vacation, Mr. Clinton worked on his golf game at Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club with club pro Al Weinhold and financier James Wolfensohn. As Mr. Clinton plays hole after hole, Hillary Rodham Clinton has been at her writing desk at their vacation residence. She has been writing her weekly newspaper column as well as working on her book about child-raising.

It takes one crook to catch another

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African lobby group for the rights of prisoners fledged to help police tackle the country's growing crime wave. "It takes a crook to catch another crook," the South African Prisoners' Organisation for Human Rights said in a statement. "We are prepared to assist in curbing crime, corruption and violence by recruiting members of the community and ex-prisoners to infiltrate crime syndicates and racketeers," it said.

# World News

China city gets  
free oxygen bars  
traffic cops

BELING (R) — An "oxygen bar" in northeastern China offering free date breathing police who spent carbon-monoxide Xinhua news agency. The owner of a bar in the city of issued special cards, letting them to go to inhale pure oxygen week, it said. The content of normal per cent oxygen pollution in China, north the percentage lower, and people such air become said. Xinhua said. An 500 litres of oxygen, said. Inhaling pure helps people to become more said. China already oxygen bars in Beijing, Hangzhou and the south and the eastern industrial cities.

Thai AIDS scare  
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MANILA (AP) —

AIDS epidemic has caused a rapid child prostitution Philippines, a Filipina said Friday. Sex committee chairwoman Herrera said in that there was a number of suspender pedophiles visiting where he said the pedophiles visiting the country's 60,000 prostitutes made it "may be attributable increasing number positive prostitute land, as reported United Nations Child in a study," he statement. Mr. He is seeking the for child abuse Britons, two also a Frenchman trained by Philippines on suspicion sexually abused children.

Michael Jackson goes online with fans worldwide

NEXT (R) —

Michael Jackson with his fans for the on Thursday night, them an earful about marriage, music and the "Never believe in garbage." Mr. Jackson online when asked British tabloid newspaper that he was of divorcing Lisa Marie, daughter of "Don't waste your money. No, it's us." Mr. Jackson thousands who have question and answer with the king of pop online computer game was broadcast on MTV with some of his best music videos. The dominated by questions which superheros son would like to be Batman) and who choose to be out dead or alive. He said, "Iangelo."

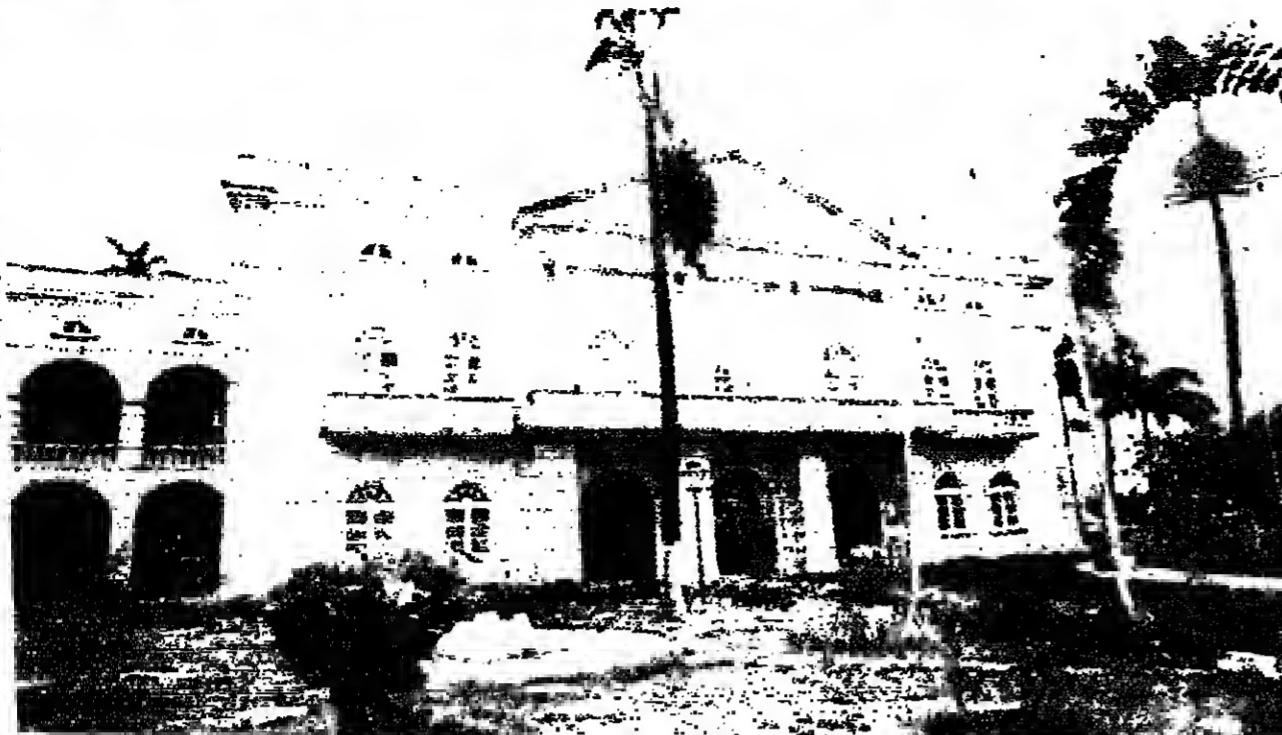
Clinton just

swinging around Wyoming

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (R) — Raining fishing, horseback it's all there for Bill in the Teton Mountains so far he's sticking reliable: Knocking white balls around white club. On the second his vacation, Mr. Clinton plays hole-in-one. Clinton has been at her writing desk, their vacation residence has been writing newspaper column while working on her book child-raising.

It takes one cr to catch another

JOHANNESBURG A South African for the rights of people flocked to help the country's growing wave. "It takes a catch another crowd," South African Organisation said in a statement. "We are prepared to curb crime, and violence by members of the community and ex-prisoners crime syndicates," it said.



Undated file picture showing the presidential palace of Sao Tome (AFP photo)

## Appointment of Sao Tome interim president in doubt

LISBON (R) — The appointment by coup leaders in Sao Tome and Principe, of Francisco Fortunato Pires as interim president was in doubt on Friday as Pires gave no guarantee he would cooperate with officers who seized the African island state.

Young army officers took control of Sao Tome and Principe, a former Portuguese colony 200 kilometres off Gabon, on Tuesday and arrested democratically-elected President Miguel Trovoda.

Mr. Pires added: "I don't have to accept or reject being as interim president in the country. I just have to stick with the constitution."

Portugal said the appointment of Mr. Pires was unacceptable.

"It is not the best solution for the country," Secretary of State For Foreign Affairs Jose Brilosa E Galo told reporters in Lisbon Thursday night.

LUSA late Thursday after

couple leaders announced his appointment.

Referring to his appointment, Mr. Pires, who as president of parliament had acted as interim president in the absence of Mr. Trovoda before the coup, said: "This decision taken by the military who led the coup does not obey constitutional requirements."

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LUSA late Thursday after

A solution to the crisis "depends upon the restoration of democratic and constitutional law," he said.

The leader of the military coup outlined reasons for the action in a televised address Thursday night and said soldiers lived like beggars in sub-human conditions.

The military were "left to their fate and turned into beggars," Lieutenant Manuel Quintas de Almeida said, according to LUSA in a report from Sao Tome.

The SAO Tome military "remained within the walls (of their barracks) in sub-human conditions, in flagrant violation of human rights," Lt. Quintas de Almeida said.

He said the military led the coup to protest against poverty and the "urgent necessity to put an end to political

quarrels and the egotistical and opportunistic interests of the leaders," an apparent reference to political corruption.

Portuguese TSF radio quoted U.S. officials as saying an Angolan delegation led by Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura, which was due to arrive in Sao Tome later Friday to mediate in the crisis, was to press for the reappointment of Trovoda.

The radio said if the coup leaders did not reappoint Trovoda, who was elected in 1991, the United States would suspend aid to the islands.

SAO Tome and Principe, with a population of 130,000 and a foreign debt of \$260 million, depends heavily on agriculture, Tourism and foreign aid.

ECOWAS, whose members include some of the world's poorest nations, has shouldered most of the financial burden in Liberia and does not favour a U.N. withdrawal.

The outcome of today's consultation will determine whether west African foreign ministers on a nine-nation Liberia committee will meet here this weekend," he said.

The meeting of faction leaders, including the main rebel leader Charles Taylor, began on Wednesday and was meant to finish Thursday

## Indonesian youths burn Australian flag in protest

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian protesters from government-sanctioned youth organisations raised the ante in a row with Australia on Friday, tearing, kicking and burning two Australian flags in front of its embassy.

The noisy protests by the KNPI Umbrella youth group cap weeks of similar incidents in Australia, where critics of Jakarta's rule over East Timor have burned Indonesian flags, triggering renewed tension between the two neighbours.

"The Australian government should take action against the Australian people who make a provocation, and if the Australian government cannot do it the youth organisations will ask the Indonesian government to consider its ties with Australia," said Tubagus Haryono, head of

KNPI.

Sixty flag-waving youths from several officially linked groups joined the protests, standing on the embassy fence, spitting and stamping on Australian flags and daubing anti-Australian slogans on the fence and plaque.

One protester scaled the fence and tried to climb the embassy flagpole before being restrained by colleagues.

A delegation of four protesters was allowed into the embassy but left after the ambassador declined to see them personally. The crowd dispersed after 90 minutes.

"Because there's no dialogue there's no solution," said Mr. Tubagus.

Diplomats said the protest was more robust and better organised than previous ones, despite the small size.

Student sources said they would stage further protests.

Ten policemen and security officers stood by but there were no reports of arrests.

Australia's Defence Minister Robert Ray Thursday said the Canberra government should consider outlawing the burning of national flags, saying such incidents would irritate ties with Indonesia.

"I think the government long-term will have to look at outlawing this, making it illegal to burn another country's flag," Mr. Ray said.

Indonesia has said it hopes the incidents will not harm bilateral ties, but diplomats said the embassy protests in Jakarta appeared to have some tacit official backing.

Critics of Jakarta's 19-year-old annexation of East Timor rallied outside Indonesian diplomatic missions in some Australian cities as Indonesia celebrated the anniversary of its declaration of independence.

Six flags were burned during a peaceful protest by 200 people in Melbourne, police said.

Allan Taylor has twice been summoned by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas since the flag-burning began earlier this month.

Ties between the two countries have been strained in recent months by a series of rows, including the withdrawal in July of Jakarta's controversial nomination of a former general as ambassador to Canberra after an up roar over comments he had made about East Timor.

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## Liberia warlords still far from accord

ABUJA (R) — Liberian warring factions Friday appeared still far from reaching an accord on power-sharing to end their five-year conflict.

A meeting in the Nigerian capital Abuja between the warlords and African and United Nations mediators to try to resolve the issue ended late on Thursday night without a deal.

A Nigerian mediator told Reuters the meeting would reconvene on Friday morning.

"The outcome of today's consultation will determine whether west African foreign ministers on a nine-nation Liberia committee will meet here this weekend," he said.

The meeting of faction leaders, including the main rebel leader Charles Taylor, began on Wednesday and was meant to finish Thursday

ahead of a meeting Friday by Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS) ministers.

Only the foreign ministers of Nigeria and Ghana are currently in Abuja.

Liberia's neighbours and the international community are showing frustration with the inability of the warlords to agree on the composition of a proposed council of state that will govern Liberia in an interim period leading to elections.

Ghana's President Jerry Rawlings, the current chairman of ECOWAS, said during a one-day visit to Abuja Thursday he hoped the current peace talks would be the last.

"To be quite honest, if I have to put diplomacy aside, we are reaching the end of our limits," he told reporters

after his meeting with Nigeria's military ruler general Sani Abacha.

The U.N. has said it will withdraw its military observers in September if there is no agreement. A representative of the U.N. observer mission in Liberia is among the mediators in Abuja.

ECOWAS, whose members include some of the world's poorest nations, has shouldered most of the financial burden in Liberia and does not favour a U.N. withdrawal.

The squabbling between Liberian faction leaders partly centres on the choice of traditional chief Tambo Taylor, who is in his 90s as a neutral chairman for the council of state.

Charles Taylor, who launched the civil war in 1989, backs the choice. As the lead

er of the largest faction, Mr. Taylor is pressing for the job of first vice-president.

Some warlords say Mr. Taylor is too old for the job.

They argue that if he is given it and Mr. Taylor is made his deputy this would be tantamount to putting the leader of the national patriotic front of Liberia in power.

A dozen peace accords have been signed by the factions, the latest in Ghana last December, but none has stuck.

The last talks, in the Liberian capital Monrovia last month, ended without agreement, partly because neither Mr. Taylor nor his rival Alhaji Kromah of the Ulimo Militia attended.

Mr. Taylor is attending the current peace talks and his aides say he is putting in extra effort to ensure their success.

## Simpson jury may make trip to scene of murder

LOS ANGELES (R) —

Judge Lance Ito Thursday ordered a nighttime jury visit to the scene where O.J. Simpson is alleged to have killed his ex-wife and her

guilty to the murders.

Mr. Ito cut short Thursday's court session and cancelled testimony for Friday, when he is expected to privately review taped interviews between a North Carolina screenwriter and a key police investigator to decide whether the defence can play them for the jury.

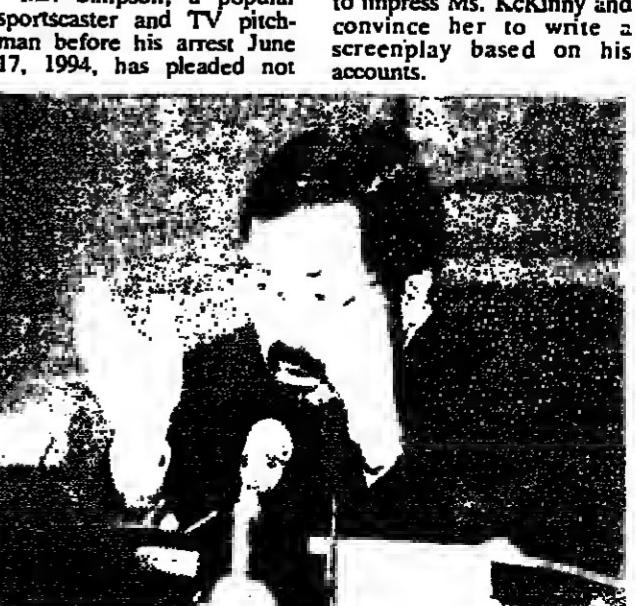
In the audiotapes, detective Mark Fuhrman allegedly derides blacks as "niggers" and speaks of police planting evidence. Mr. Fuhrman, who made the comments in a series of conversations with Laura Hart McKinney over the past 10 years, is the detective who found a bloody glove at Mr. Simpson's estate the morning after the murders.

Mr. Simpson's attorneys have accused Mr. Fuhrman of being a racist who framed the black celebrity, but in earlier trial testimony he denied planting the glove and said he had not used the racial slur "nigger" anywhere in the past decade.

The defense team contends that Mr. Fuhrman committed perjury and they want to play the tapes for the mostly black jury that will decide Mr. Simpson's fate.

But private investigator Anthony Pellicano, acting as Mr. Fuhrman's spokesman, said Mr. Fuhrman did not knowingly lie on the witness stand because at the time he had simply forgotten about the interviews with Ms. McKinney.

Mr. Pellicano said Mr. Fuhrman invented the stories to impress Ms. McKinney and convince her to write a screenplay based on his accounts.



Judge Lance Ito

## Hurricane threat wanes for East Coast Quake shocks California desert

NAGS HEAD, North Carolina (R) — After threatening the coasts of North Carolina and Virginia for two days, Hurricane Felix drifted far enough from shore on Thursday for thousands of tourists to begin trickling back to the overall country index while Cyprus, Hong Kong and Barbados head the list.

The Scandinavian countries have almost as many women as men in the labour force and 40-45 per cent women represented in parliament due mainly to a wide net of social benefits — and affirmative action programmes.

For example, Canada, the United States and Japan lead the overall country index while Cyprus, Hong Kong and Barbados head the list for developing nations.

But when women's participation in parliament or in economic decision-making posts are included, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark are on top, followed by Canada, New Zealand and the Netherlands, with the United States dropping to eighth place.

"I know that this is something discounted in America these days," Mr. Haq said in a recent interview. "But when the power structures are very strong and uneven, and lobbyists give contributions to incumbents, you don't get in any other way."

In the developing world, affirmative action schemes, including quotas.

The widely respected report each year seeks to measure the development progress in each country, analysing how wealth is used to improve health and literacy and reduce poverty.

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# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1995

## Jordan Times

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## A welcome turn of the tides

**THE SUCCESS** of the visit of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to Saudi Arabia became an established fact when Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal declared that Jordanian-Saudi relations have been restored to their normal level. The Saudi declaration came in the wake of Mr. Kabariti's talks with Saudi leaders, headed by King Fahd.

This development in bilateral ties is very significant given the tense relationship that resulted from serious differences that arose from the Gulf crisis and war in 1990 and 1991. The latest breakthrough entails, over and above its positive implications for inter-Arab relations generally, the appointment of a new Saudi ambassador to Jordan and Saudi participation in the upcoming Economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), in Amman. In addition, the way is now open for a summit meeting to take place between King Hussein and King Fahd.

There is no doubt that the recent events in Iraq have contributed to speeding up the search for a true reconciliation between the two kingdoms. All doubts about where Jordan really stands on the situation in Iraq should have dissipated by now and we hope our position on the Gulf crisis and war will have also been better understood by our Arab brothers in the Gulf. What Jordan is concerned with is ensuring a better future for all Arab peoples. Its decision to oppose the Western coalition against Iraq was predicated on its belief that a less damaging option to the interests of the Arab World could have been used to end the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which it unequivocally condemned. Its stand on the recent development on Iraq is also aimed at nothing but helping alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

We cannot but express our satisfaction at the restoration of full and warm relations between our country and Saudi Arabia. The interruption of fraternal contacts between us was but an aberration that was destined to end sooner or later. And now that we are on the brink of a new era in relations, we need to articulate and incorporate new guidelines and mechanisms that would assure the continuation of the present course. There is no better way to attain this objective than to institutionalise relations on firm and clear grounds that are solid enough to withstand transient misunderstandings.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**A WRITER** in Al Ra'i Arabic daily accused the United States of violating the international law by demanding that Jordan play a direct role in changing the regime in Iraq and in interfering in that country's internal affairs against its own will. Fahd Al Fanek said that this was unacceptable to Jordan which realises that interference in other people's affairs had brought about many tragedies to the Arab Nation over the past 40 years and was in contradiction with the Arab code of honour which the Kingdom is currently formulating with the other Arab states. It is true that the United States has expressed willingness to protect Jordan from any Iraqi attack but the Iraqis are not poised to launch an attack on Jordan because it is not in their own interests and would achieve nothing for Baghdad. Washington is trying to use any excuse for the sake of attacking on Iraq to destroy that country again and is trying to involve Jordan in such an adventure. Noting that Jordan is currently relying on Iraqi oil and that the Iraqi market imports 10 to 25 percent of Jordanian exports, the writer said that President Bill Clinton who is enthusiastic about an attack on Iraq had not declared that his country would compensate Jordan for such a loss or would supply oil to Jordan free of charge or at half price. The writer warned of the danger of going along with the American plot against the Iraqi nation adding that American pledges to protect Jordan were not needed and not necessary.

**AL DUSTOUR** daily focused attention on Jordanian-Saudi relations describing Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti's mission in Riyadh as giving cause for optimism that inter-Arab relations are finally on their way to witness improvement following five years of strain. The daily said that the Jordanian people are looking forward to seeing their ties with Saudi Arabia on their right course again and that cooperation between the sister countries in various fields are restored at the highest level. As Mr. Kabariti had said Saudi-Jordanian ties had always served as an axis for building solid ties among Arab states and therefore Jordanians were hopeful that such relations would be restored and bolstered in the interest of the two countries and the Arab World at large, said the daily. Strong Saudi-Jordanian relations are much needed at the present as the Arab region witnessing serious events and as the Arab Nation is moving into an era of peace with Israel, added the paper.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

### A European decision worthy of praise

THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) deserves praise and appreciation for its courageous decision not to fall victim of Israeli tactics by boycotting the "Jerusalem birthday" party that Israel is holding in September. The EU move reflects a clear understanding not only of Arab and Muslim sensitivity over Jerusalem but also of Israel's carefully-orchestrated moves to consolidate its grip and claim over the Holy City through political, social and cultural moves.

No wonder the EU decision ruffled more than a few feathers in Israel, which was betting on European participation in the September bash to offer a measure of legitimacy to the Jewish state's claim to Jerusalem. If the EU states attend the "3,000th birthday" of Jerusalem, it would be a tacit endorsement of Israeli assertion that the Holy City was Israeli 3,000 years ago. As it turned out, the European outmanoeuvred the Israelis by bringing out the political element behind the "party" through pointing out that the final status of Jerusalem is an issue that should be negotiated between the Palestinians and Israelis and as such Europe was not ready to endorse the Israeli claim to the city.

We do not really know at this point how much of Arab and Muslim lobbying went into prompting the EU to politely turn down the Israeli invitation, but the move should remind us all that we should not relax our vigil against the continued Israeli campaign to achieve fait accomplis in Jerusalem at all levels.

We have to remember that the Jerusalem bash is slated to continue for 15 months, and we should expect to see a strong Israeli effort to bring in many reluctant countries to directly or indirectly participate in whatever the Jewish state intends to do during this period in the context of the Holy City.

Close in the wake of the European announcement of boycott of the "Jerusalem birthday party" came a tightening of Israel's opposition to foreign dignitaries meeting Palestinian officials at the Orient House, the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), after the deputy prime minister of Sweden, Mona Sahlin, called off a visit to the Holy City and a meeting with PLO officials there. "Even courtesy calls to the Orient House has a political character, these days," an Israeli minister was quoted as saying, referring to the called-off plan of the Swedish minister. (We cannot but recall that Sweden still remembers that it was an Israeli hand that killed Count Folke Bernadotte, who stood among many Europeans for his quest for justice and fairness in Palestine,

in 1948). It is indeed ironical that Israel sees a "political character" to a foreign dignitary meeting PLO officials at the Orient House but fails to mention that the entire planning behind the "Jerusalem birthday party" is politically oriented. Not that we would expect Israel to publicly acknowledge that reality, but it is naive at best on its part to believe that the outside world is oblivious to its plans and designs.

We have always argued that Jerusalem could be one of the thorniest issues in any Arab-Israeli peace settlement. Israel also understands it but it is going its own way trying to change facts on the ground by the time serious negotiations start on the status of Jerusalem. By virtue of its occupation and control over Arab East Jerusalem, Israel is indeed in a better position to advance its quest. But a majority of the international community would not go along with it. That was the clear message that Israel should take from the European decision to stay away from its bash in Jerusalem. Of course, we cannot expect Israel, single-minded as it is not to relinquish Arab Jerusalem, final status negotiations or not, to learn from the message. What we can expect now is a revival of moves by pro-Israeli and Israeli-influenced members of the U.S. Congress to further extend American support for the Israeli claim. Although the moves may not amount to much in terms of a public American recognition of Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its "united, eternal capital" — given the Clinton administration's rejection of the idea — the very debate over the issue could boost the Israeli stand.

Let us state once gain the reality on the ground: No matter what Israel does or intends to do, the Arabs and Muslims would not let go of Arab East Jerusalem. Israel has secured some measure of legitimacy in the region through the peace process, but it is equally easy for the Jewish state to lose that legitimacy if it persists in its stubborn stand over Jerusalem.

Jordan has signed a peace treaty with Israel, which, in turn, acknowledges the Hashemites' special role in the Holy City. That special role definitely is part and parcel of the Arab and Muslim character and identity of Arab East Jerusalem. But a simple acknowledgement of the Hashemites' role is not enough. We in Jordan would fight tooth and nail to establish that role on behalf of the Arabs and Muslims without prejudicing the Palestinians' political rights in Arab East Jerusalem. Israel would be far better off understanding and appreciating that reality.

### Jordan should not be embroiled in Iraqi affairs, writers urge

The Week in Print

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE FLIGHT of senior Iraqi officials and army officers to Jordan dominated the Arabic press in the past week. The situation in the occupied Arab territories, pan-Arab affairs and domestic issues also figures prominently in the editorials and in columnists' articles.

A writer in Al Dustour criticised the United States for seeking to involve Jordan in "hostile actions against Baghdad when Iraq openly declared its intention to maintain good relations with Jordan. We know that Baghdad is not planning to destroy its ties with Jordan at a time when Washington continues to insist that it would defend the Kingdom at a time when Washington continues to insist that it would defend the Kingdom in the face of alleged Iraqi aggression," said Mohammad Kawash.

The writer said that it was clear from Washington's attitude and through its pressures on Jordan to stop trading with the Iraqi people that the U.S. hopes to tighten the sanctions on Iraq and close its only remaining outlet to the outside world. He said Washington believed that Jordanian people's ties with the Iraqi people are based merely on trade exchange rather than brotherly or national considerations.

A writer in Al Ra'i said Jordan should seek to mend fences with the Gulf states and all other Arab countries and at the same time retain good relations with the United States. But maintaining good ties with the other Arab states should never be at the expense of destroying the Kingdom's ties with Iraq with which Jordan has a real interest. Jordan in fact has great and important interests with Iraq which pro-

vides it with cheap oil and which owes Jordan \$1.100 million that can only be repaid through trade, said Fahd Al Fanek. Hence we have reservations over Jordan's employment as a springboard for changing the regime in Baghdad and we can only hope that any possible change will be in favour of pluralism and democracy, said the writer. We hope that the Iraqi people will be offered the chance to take actual role in ruling themselves through an elected parliament which can help end the plight of the Iraqi people, the writer said.

Stressing that Jordan is not facing danger neither is in need of protection from any source, Tareq Masarweh, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that it was only natural for Jordan to grant asylum to Hussein Kamel Hassan and thousands of others from various Arab states over the years, because Jordanians are a hospitable people. The writer said that there was no meaning or justification for the big fuss created by the U.S. president over the defecition issue because the Jordanian government has been clear about the affair stressing that it would not be involved in internal Iraqi affairs. The writer said however that any refugee living in Jordan should not be allowed to exercise any hostile activities against any regime in the Arab World especially that being away from one's homeland. One would have little influence on changing the regime in his country.

Masarweh's views were echoed by Bassam Emoush, another Al Ra'i columnist who said that while accepting the Iraqi officials as political refugees Jordan can by no means allow these guests to launch campaigns against

Hussein Kamel Hassan and his group who defected to Jordan. The writer said that by doing so the Iraqi leadership has not only shown willingness to cooperate with the United Nations but has sought to shake the credibility of Hussein Kamel Hassan and his group who defected to Jordan. The writer said that by

## Indonesia anniversary raises questions for army

By Jeremy Wagstaff

Reuter

JAKARTA — From the days when, armed with spears and sticks, they stormed Japanese outposts in the heady first throes of the independence struggle, Indonesia's soldiers have seen themselves as defenders of the people.

This view has long justified a central place in political and military life, enshrined in the concept of "dual function."

But as the world's fourth largest country commemorates its 50th birthday this month, this view sits uneasily with many Indonesians who see the men in green as something less than heroes.

"It has many critics," said retired General Soemitro, who headed the powerful operational command for the restoration of security and order in the 1970s, of the armed forces, known by its Indonesian acronym ABRI.

"ABRI cannot act against the current of public opinion, so a certain sense of accommodation and understanding should be shown by the ABRI, and there is an indication that ABRI has understood this," he said in an interview earlier this month.

Mr. Soemitro is one of many former military men who, for one reason or another, have turned from gamekeeper to poacher.

Even now retired General Abdul Hanis Nasution, architect of the armed forces doctrine of "dual function," has long been a critic of its implementation.

The army was a late arrival during the heady days of 1945.

While the country's first political leaders took the plunge of proclaiming independence in the interregnum between the Japanese occupation and the return of the Dutch overlords, they were reluctant to take up arms to fight for freedom.

This left a painful gap in the movement's defences until, a few months later, guerrillas formed their own army, elected their own leader and set the stage for future tensions.

"Owing to its reluctance to act promptly and decisively in the first days following the proclamation of independence, the government ... lost its control over the Indonesian armed forces," wrote historian Salim Said in a book on the period.

Five decades later, the armed forces still sees itself playing a role beyond the purely military — from assisting villagers build bridges to having a definite say in government.

ABRI is small for the

## LETTERS

### Debt relief to boost economy

To the Editor:

APPRECIATION was widely expressed as U.S. President Bill Clinton decided to sign into law a congressional bill allowing the U.S. administration to cancel all of Jordan's around \$450 million. The debt relief is certainly going to be

If not realised now, the long-run positive consequences experienced.

Cancelling Jordan's debt will decrease its foreign obligations and will improve its monetary status, especially in the eyes of investors who prefer investing their money in a country that enjoys economic stability and growth.

One important feature that can be achieved through this cancellation of debt is the saving of foreign currency, which interest payments can be allocated efficiently by using it in projects that can boost the Jordanian economy.

More debt causes interest costs to rise relative to revenues. As a result, people will become increasingly "printing press" money in an effort to escape its loan obligations. This fear of rapid money growth and inflation would push government to meet its debt obligations. If sufficiently capital market. And if the government did resort to "printing press" money in order to pay off its debt would result. The economy would be severely crippled.

In conclusion, being indebted is an obstacle in the face of economic growth and development. Therefore, the debt relief is important for the continuation of development.

Serena Shahin,  
McGill University.

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# Features

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1995

## Peace for sale: A group of mercenaries is doing the job of the United Nations by helping to settle the continent's bush wars

**THE BOEING 707** took off before dawn from Johannesburg last week and flew to Sierra Leone via Angola. The flight did not appear on any international schedule; at Freetown, no customs or immigration officials appeared to check papers.

The passengers — South African mercenaries and a handful of British businessmen — simply disembarked on the tarmac, boarded an enormous military helicopter and were ferried across the mile-wide Sierra Leone River to the government's army headquarters.

Executive Outcomes, the private South African army which has been hired by Sierra Leone to help crush the rebel Revolutionary United Front, operates beyond bureaucrats, beyond ideology. "At the end of the day we're a business," explained one of its directors, Lafras Luitingh.

The expertise of the business is fighting bush wars in Africa, but the firm has diversified. It has secured diamond concessions as payment for services rendered in Sierra Leone; it mines gold in Uganda; it drills boreholes in Ethiopia; and has a variety of business interests in south Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Lesotho and Angola. It operates a network of 32 companies, its businesses ranging from computer software to adult education.

"There are many officers who support the notion back to barracks (negotiated by some arms dealers), one Indonesian leftist covering Asia," said recently.

But there are others,

like ABRI, as defender

the faith, the only de-

able force during the

heyday of the 1980s.

Then hundreds

of thousands of Indone-

sians died in the wake of

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This role has ingrained

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ABRI deserves a

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This may depend on

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But while not over

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the matter, diplomats say

Sharto has been stim-

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Most academics

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Sharto.

A detachment of Gur-

khas had failed to halt

the advance. The parano

ia was heightened by a

repeat of the crazy blood-

shed in neighbouring

Liberia. Freetown was in

the hands of the "boys"

a group of army officers

in their late twenties who

inherited the government in



A white S. African officer trains black mercenaries for the ever-expanding bush war business

## Africa's diamond dogs of war

**A private South African army, a business beyond ideology, has been hired**

by Sierra Leone to crush the rebel Revolutionary United Front. Phillip Van

**1992 when President Joseph Momoh fled to Guinea, having mistaken a disgruntled delegation of soldiers complaining about pay for a coup.**

In public posters, Captain Valecoine Strasser, 29, chairman of the Provisional Ruling Council, looks ridiculously under-age to be in the army, never mind head of state.

Executive Outcomes went as Strasser's government with an offer it couldn't refuse. "We said: 'you're in deep shit.' They said they couldn't pay. We said they could pay us when they could afford it."

Within weeks, the South Africans trained 150 elite troops and freed the approaches to Freetown — and then recaptured the diamond fields in the Kono district.

In an interview with The Observer, Mr. Strasser credited the "remarkable" turnaround in the war to Executive Outcomes. "We've had a number of

successes," said Mr. Strasser, a shaggy man whose desk is filled with diplomatic gifts such as Oriental dolls. "They were so close to the capital — but now the security situation is improving."

As in Angola, Executive Outcomes denies it has any role in actual combat. The most Mr. Luitingh will admit is that "you can't do battle guidance or planning if you sit hundreds of kilometres away. To be at the sharp edge."

And when speaking to them, there is no doubt that Executive Outcomes' black soldiers — about 70 per cent of the mercenary force — have been engaged in combat. The newcomers include Angolans and South Africans from the most infamous and toughest units of the old South African Defence Force.

What is also beyond dispute is that the South Africans — who handle intelligence, logistics, com-

munications, training and planning — have made all the difference between a fighting force and an ill-disciplined band.

But it is still too early to conclude that the war is over. The rebels continue to attack convoys on the road east to the cities of Bo and Kenema, where starvation is growing. Few days ago, a convoy of 75 trucks carrying food from Freetown to the interior was ambushed on the road to Bo. Government troops fled leaving the civilian drivers to be massacred.

The South Africans were not there, and complained their advice had not been heeded. But suspicions that the rebels had been tipped off in Freetown highlighted another problem: who are rebels and who are government troops? Many believe there is only a superficial difference.

Ordinary Sierra Leones are more trusting of the white South Africans than of their own army.

Despite Executive Outcomes' successes, there are lingering, uneasy questions in the minds of educated Sierra Leoneans: If the government is not paying the organisation, to whom is it accountable?

The smart money in Freetown is on the other South African outfit, De Beers, which holds the country's lucrative offshore diamond concessions.

Since 1992 my major preoccupation has been to see an end to the security crisis... We need to re-establish confidence in the system, he power to

They want one thing — peace. Almost a quarter of the population has been uprooted by the war, at least 50,000 slaughtered since 1992.

At the same time, the Sierra Leone leadership realises that in the dense African bush there can be no final military solution, that it cannot kill all the rebels. It wants to weaken the RUF sufficiently to force it to negotiate, a repeat of the scenario in Angola where Unita's Jonas Savimbi capitulated last November.

The government has invited the rebels to a political conference to discuss democratic elections — it is confident that Mr. Strasser still plans to transfer power back to elected civilian rule in January. He says he will quit politics as soon as this happens.

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## UAE coffers reel under high spending and low oil price

**ABU DHABI (AFP)** — High government spending coupled with weak oil prices have put strong pressure on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coffers, official figures have showed.

The country's budget has suffered from a persistent large deficit despite attempts to diversify sources of income, the figures showed.

Since 1990, the deficit in the Gulf country's consolidated accounts, which comprise the federal and local budgets, have run at around 10 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), one of the highest levels in the world.

"There appears to be clear evidence that the UAE economy has been running a considerable fiscal deficit in the neighbourhood of 10 per cent of the GDP in its accounts," the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) said.

"There are very few countries in the world that have

equivalent to spending in previous years."

"Spending has remained high as the government is committed to meeting growing development and military needs," a UAE bank manager told AFP.

EIB figures showed development spending, including financial aid to developing nations, accounted for nearly a third of the total expenditure in the past four years. It stood at 16.5 billion dirhams (\$4.49 billion) in 1994 and as high as 25.8 billion dirhams (\$7 billion) in 1991.

The figures showed the deficit persisted because of a decline in oil earnings and failure by the government to trim expenditure.

From around 48.7 billion dirhams (\$13.26 billion) in 1991, total revenues plunged to 38.6 billion dirhams (\$10.5 billion) in 1994. Oil income declined from 35.6 billion dirhams (\$9.7 billion) to 29.9 billion dirhams (\$8.14 billion) in the same period.

Expenditure remained as high as 54.5 billion dirhams (\$14.8 billion) in 1994, almost

equivalent to spending in previous years.

No official figures were available on military spending but the UAE has been locked in a programme to bolster its armed forces since the Gulf war.

Unlike other Gulf oil producers, the UAE has not resorted to issuing bonds or seeking loans from international markets to shore up the budget deficit. Instead, it has opted for borrowing from

its national banks, with credits totalling around 12.6 billion dirhams (\$3.43 billion) in 1994.

The UAE, a federation of seven emirates, produces around 2.16 million barrels per day of oil, of which 40 per cent is owned by Japanese, French and other foreign partners under production-sharing agreement.

Weak crude prices have forced it to seek other income sources, introducing new fees on government services and raising them on existing services. It has also launched a campaign to expand its non-oil industries and is planning to boost gas exports and set up petrochemical projects.

The federal budget, which is financed by half the income of each of the country's seven emirates, has also suffered deficits because of low oil prices. But in some years, the shortfall was turned into a surplus due to higher contributions by some emirates and cuts in actual spending.

provement in the financial position of the kingdom, strapped for cash in the past few years due to weak oil prices and huge costs related to the Gulf war, had also helped lift demand.

The generally better trend in gold sales also reflects an easier fiscal position, as oil prices during the first half of 1995 were about \$2 above budgeted estimates," he said.

In the UAE, and in particular Dubai — a world trading and reexport centre for

gold, demand rose strongly towards the end of the first half and during July.

The trade estimates show a 30 per cent growth in sales of gold jewellery from the middle of May to the end of July... in 1995 the export-driven summer vacation take-home purchase has been much better in... July as compared to July 1994," he said.

Many of the UAE's expatriate population, which accounts for about 75 per cent of a total of around two million, are Indians, who are big gold buyers. India is the single largest gold market in the world, consuming 235.1 tonnes in the first half.

its stand-by loan to Georgia.

This year, Georgia has stamped out hyper-inflation, freed most prices, set up an independent central bank and launched an ambitious programme of mass privatisation.

Industrial decline, among the severest in the post-socialist world, may not have ended. But several sectors seem to have turned the corner and are in line to see growth, Mr. Shadman-Valavi said.

He added that his delegation would recommend that the IMF executive board approve the next tranche of

## Growth for gold demand expected to stay strong in Arab Gulf states

DUBAI (R) — Growth in Gulf demand for gold in the second half of 1995 is likely to match or exceed the healthy 10 per cent increase in the first six months of this year, the World Gold Council (WGC) has said.

"We expect at least a similar increase for the second half as all (Gulf) economic indicators have improved dramatically," WGC regional chief executive Rolf Schneebeli told Reuters.

WGC figures show demand in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rose 10 per cent in the first half to 119.2 tonnes from 103.7 tonnes in the first six months of last year.

"Saudi's fiscal position is continuing to improve and we see continued and accelerating economic growth in the UAE," he said.

The Geneva-based WGC, owned by major gold producers worldwide, monitors about 75 per cent of the world's markets.

Mr. Schneebeli said Saudi gold demand rose 13 per cent in the first half to 99 tonnes from 87.3 in the same period last year, thanks partly to strong sales during the Mus-

## IMF praises Georgia

TBILISI (AFP) — A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), concluding a two-week visit to Georgia, has hailed the ex-Soviet republic's progress toward economic reform.

"Georgia has come a tremendous way in the last 12 months — it's almost unbelievable," Mohammad Shadman-Valavi, head of the IMF delegation, said.

He added that his delegation would recommend that the IMF executive board approve the next tranche of

its stand-by loan to Georgia.

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## Sudan begins to pay off regional bank debts

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has started to pay off outstanding debts to regional banks and funds in Africa and the Middle East, the minister of state for finance was quoted as saying.

The government-owned Al Sudan Al Hadith quoted Mohammad Khair Al Zubair as saying his country had paid off delayed instalments to institutions including the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank and the African Development Bank.

The chamber voted 37 to 14 in favour of a bill softening repayment terms for thousands of debtors including government officials and merchants whose bad loans are equivalent to 90 per cent of gross domestic product.

Opposition deputies attacked the bill — officially

as a measure to help the rich get richer at state expense.

Islamist Ahmad Baqer said

he feared the debt would now never be paid because the vote had set a precedent of easing repayment terms even easier terms would be proposed in years to come.

"I fear that within a year or two this (draft) law is going to be eroded and public funds will be harmed," Sheikh Baqer said.

"I ask the prime minister (Sheikh Saad Al Sabah), and anyone from the government, to make a definitive statement tomorrow that there will be no more amendments," said opposition MP Mishari Al Osaimi in emotional scenes after the final

vote.

The bill now goes for ratification by the emir.

The 1993 bill sat Sept. 6, 1995 as the deadline, for debtors choosing cash settlement — an option that was taken by debtors owing most of the debt.

Under the bill, the 2.3 bil-

## Kuwait assembly approves debt rescue amid protest

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament has given final approval to measures to ease repayment terms on \$20 billion owed by some of the Gulf country's richest people.

The chamber voted 37 to 14 in favour of a bill softening repayment terms for thousands of debtors including government officials and merchants whose bad loans are equivalent to 90 per cent of gross domestic product.

Opposition MPs have said the bill would be paid in five equal annual installments with the first tranche to be paid by Dec. 6, 1995. The first installment would be interest free.

The four subsequent ones would be subject to interest at rates to be set by the central bank.

The debt is owed to the government, which bought out commercial banks' holdings of the dubious loans in 1992.

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# Business & Finance



JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1995



## APC chief outlines future plans

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turnover at the Jordanian stock exchange rose by more than two thirds this week and prices edged up slightly despite political uncertainties over Iraq, one of the main markets for Jordanian products, following the defection of a high-ranking Iraqi official, brokers said.

They said, however, that the market remained largely upbeat amid signs that Parliament was nearing endorsement of several key economy-related laws that would liberalise the King's trade and investment policies.

## Sautin leads European springboard semifinal qualifiers

VIENNA (Agencies) — World highboard champion Dmitry Sautin led qualifiers into the men's three-metre springboard diving semifinal at the European Swimming Championships on Friday.

Sautin overhauled Italy's Davide Lorenzini with the last of his six voluntary dives, a reverse 1½ somersaults with 3½ twists which earned him 77.22 points, the highest mark of the round.

Sautin, who won the highboard gold and three-metre springboard silver at both the 1993 European and 1994 World Championships, amassed an aggregate 388.05 points.

Lorenzini, 1991 European bronze medalist, was second with 380.55 points and defending champion Jan Hemmel of Germany was third with 375.69.

Points from the morning session, which reduced the field from 26 to 18, were being carried forward into the semifinal of five compulsory dives. Twelve divers will contest Saturday's final.

The first title of the 22nd European Championships was being decided in the women's three-metre springboard final later on Friday, before the men's springboard semifinal.

The men's and women's water polo tournaments got under way on Friday and synchronised swimming was continuing with the duet technical programme.

The main swimming events in the Stadionbad begin next Tuesday.

### Officials warn about doping

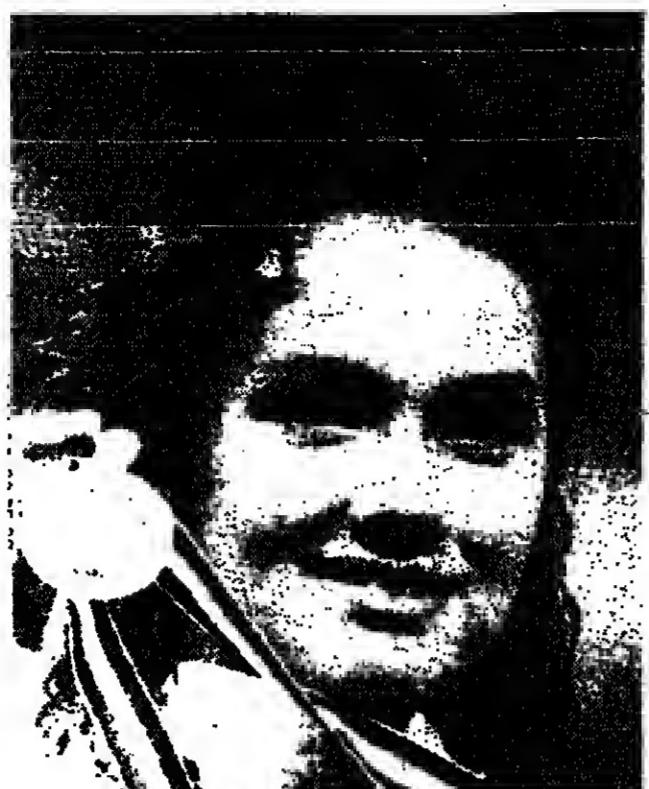
Two doping cases sounded a warning to swimmers at the European Championships.

Anne Chagnaud, the French European title holder in the 25 kilometres was barred from competing in Vienna having tested positive in January this year after a marathon race in Tapes, Brazil.

Chagnaud tested positive for the drug ephedrine and was prohibited from competing for two years in July by FINA, the International Swimming Federation.

The decision was upheld this week in spite of a pardon plea to the IOC Arbitration Court in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Finland's Petteri Lehtinen's two-year ban for testing positive for salbutamol was suspended. The Finn approached the Arbitration



Franziska van Almsick

competitors.

He criticised the international authorities for not doing enough to stop the use of drugs, potentially endangering the future of the sport.

"It is time somebody took a stand because FINA is doing nothing about it," Perkins said.

LEN, the European governing body of swimming, expressing concern about the

war situation in the Balkans, decided Wednesday against holding European water polo events in Croatia and Yugoslavia.

In another policy-changing move it allowed the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to participate in the championships. Yugoslavia, which was not allowed to compete two years ago in Sheffield, England, has been readmitted.



Russian Dmitry Sautin, performing a 3½ three metre springboard diving semifinal somersault, leads qualifiers into the men's (AFP photo)

## Curiosity surrounding Tyson carries non-title bout

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It's not a Leonard-Hagler or an Ali-Holmes. As a boxing match, it doesn't even come close to matching the two bouts between Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield.

But it is Mike Tyson, and that's reason enough for Saturday's fight with Peter McNeeley to qualify as one of this boxing capital's biggest events.

"Even the people who don't care about boxing are talking boxing this week," said Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "Nobody's talking about the fight itself. There's just a big curiosity factor about Mike Tyson."

From the chatter around the sports book windows on the Las Vegas strip to the MGM Grand Hotel, where people mill around hoping for a glimpse of Tyson, there's an aura of excitement in the air for the fight.

The anticipation over Tyson's return is reflected in the celebrity list for the fight, which includes the likes of Hollywood actors Jim Carey, Arnold Schwarzenegger and

Eddie Murphy, American comedian and TV star Jerry Seinfeld and basketball all-star Shaquille O'Neal.

Even the most expensive fight ticket in the city's history — \$1,500 for anything close to ringside — hasn't discouraged hotels from bringing in their high rolling gamblers for the bout.

In the dog days of summer, the fight has given a boost to the city at a time when casino business is generally slow.

"It's an excuse for people to come to town, so they can see Mike Tyson," said one casino executive. "No one really cares about the fight. It's an event, not a fight."

Tickets for the fight were still available Thursday, although the cheapest seats at \$200 each were sold out.

Hotel officials and promoter Don King were vague on just how many tickets were sold, with Mr. King saying about 1,000 seats remained for sale in the 16,000-seat arena. If the arena sells out, the promotion will realize a \$15 million live gate.

"The ticket prices are absurd," rival promoter Bob Arum said. "Hagler-Leonard was only \$700 for the best seat. The Tyson-Holyfield fight was \$1,000 and it sold out the first week before it was cancelled."

Tyson's previous comeback, in his first fight after losing the heavyweight title to James "Buster" Douglas, nearly sold out at Caesars Palace with Henry Tillman as his opponent.

"We did very well on that fight," said Caesars executive Rich Rose. "But we had much more reasonable ticket prices."

The pay-per-view television sales in the United States, at prices ranging from \$39.95 to \$49.95 per home, are also expected to be strong, although few believe the fight will top the Foreman-Holyfield bout as the biggest pay-per-view seller in America.

But there's no lack of media interest, with some 1,100 media types credentialed for the bout.

About 400 of those will watch the fight from the press room because there is not enough room in the arena for them.

Bettors also are interested,

even though Tyson is a huge favourite.

At the sports book at the Mirage hotel-casino, book manager Jimmy Vaccaro said the fight has been the talk of bettors all week.

Tyson is a 17-1 favourite, but bettors can wager on whether or not the fight will last 2½ rounds or on the chances of either Tyson or McNeeley being knocked down in the first round.

"The feeling here is anticipation of him coming back," Mr. Vaccaro said. "It's not like it's a question of whether he's a great fighter, but everyone has their own opinion on how he will look. There is definite interest in this fight."

Mr. Vaccaro said most of the early money has been on McNeeley, but not necessarily because he's given much of a fighter.

"You don't hear anything about whether McNeeley is any good, but whether Tyson still has his timing," Mr. Vaccaro said. "They want to blow their money, but they want to blow it on McNeeley."

"We shouldn't grieve," Ballard said. "She was actually where she wanted to be. She had climbed the mountain. She was the first woman to climb Everest and K-2 without supplementary oxygen and she was on her way down."

"At least inside, she would

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

## Lure of real gold works its magic

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP)

— There's nothing like real gold to inspire the stars of track and field.

In a meet featuring an all-star lineup of 23 world champions, distance runners Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia and Moses Kiptanui of Kenya smashed world records — and earned \$50,000 and a one-kilo bar of gold in the process.

Although uncertain for the Britain-vs.-United States competition in Gateshead, England, next Monday, Christie indicated he was still considering taking part in the Brussels "Golden four" meet next Friday. He won the 100 metres in 10.04 seconds ahead of Canada's Donovan Bailey, the champion in Göteborg.

At the other end of the age-scale, 22-year-old Gebrselassie vowed to go for a 5,000-10,000 double in Atlanta to complement the world records he now holds in both disciplines.

In the most spectacular performance of the Zurich meet, Gebrselassie shattered Kenyan rival Kiptanui's two-month-old 5,000 record by nearly 11 seconds.

Gebrselassie clocked a sensational 12 minutes, 44.39 seconds — a time which surprised himself as much as anyone else.

Kiptanui immediately vowed to regain the record, but it will be tough.

"Kiptanui is strong. But this record can only be broken by a man, not a machine," Gebrselassie said.

The Ethiopian angered his federation by refusing to race the 5,000 in Göteborg, settling just for the 10,000 to allow him to save his energies for Zurich.

"I ran because I want to run. I don't run for money. It's a week too late and at the end of the day Donovan Bailey is the world champion," he said.

Buoyed by his success and the chance to disprove "has-been" newspaper headlines, Christie rolled back from declarations that he would quit competition this year.

However, he reiterated that he has no plans to defend his Olympic title in Atlanta next year.

In addition to first-prize money of \$7,000 and record bonuses at the individual meets, winners of any one discipline at all four events share 20 one-kilo gold bars between them. It's a clever marketing ploy which seems to work.

Michael Schumacher

LONDON (R) — A massive challenge awaits Michael Schumacher at Ferrari next season when he tries to deliver the Italian team's first drivers' world title since 1979.

The German defending world champion acknowledged the size of his task after Ferrari announced on Wednesday he would be joining them from Benetton.

Schumacher, at 26 not only the youngest man to have won the championship but also the first German, will have to succeed where such men as Briton Nigel Mansell and Frenchman Alain Prost have failed.

Mansell eventually returned to Williams to win his solitary world title in 1992, while Prost, after three successes with McLaren, succeeded the Englishman when he won his fourth title with Williams in 1993. Both arrived on a wave of euphoria, but left under a cloud.

"I am sure Damon (Hill) will be the favourite to win the championship next year," said Schumacher at Silverstone during testing with Benetton on Wednesday.

"He will have the best car, but I accept that. For me, the attraction of Ferrari is as much the challenge as it is the tradition and history of the team."

Schumacher's move from Benetton caused many raised eyebrows among the Formula One fraternity. Having won the team's first driver's title in 1994, he seems poised to repeat that success this year and placed in a strong position to go for a potential hat-trick in 1996.

But instead of staying, he seems to have traded his ambitions to win races and championships for the longer-term challenge of re-

viving Ferrari and the obvious short-term attraction of a massive financial package.

Some sources have suggested he will earn as much as \$30 million in the first year alone.

Despite his sincerity in explaining that he was moving to Ferrari because of the challenge, most cynics have found it hard to accept any other theory than that which suggest financial considerations have triumphed over sporting ambitions.

Schumacher's background — he is the son of a bricklayer — and his upbringing were characterised by economic prudence at home and in his early racing career and it is certain that he and his manager Willi Weber are delighted to have completed a move to F1's most famous team.

His greatest rival, Britain's Hill, whose 1996 contract at Williams was also confirmed on Wednesday, may not have negotiated as big a pay day as Schumacher, but looks assured of starting 1996 as the title favourite.

His team mate at Williams will be Canadian Jacques Villeneuve, this year's winner of the Indianapolis 500 and favourite to win the IndyCar World Series drivers' title, who will replace another Briton, David Coulthard.

Schumacher's place at Benetton will be taken by Frenchman Jean Alesi, who is leaving Ferrari at the end of the year, a move confirmed in the third of the three major announcements on Wednesday.

After five unpredictable years at Ferrari, which have produced only one win so far, Alesi may find the discipline and professionalism of Benetton a more suitable environment.

Schumacher may find that

Ferrari's plans to switch from a V12 engine to a V10 next year will hamper his and the team's initial progress and leave him, like Mansell and Prost, frustrated.

Michael Schumacher

ment for his temperamental talents.

Equipped with a Benetton car powered by the standard-setting Renault V10 engine which has carried Schumacher to such success this year, Alesi should be capable of mounting a serious title challenge. Only Hill, also powered by the Renault V10, appears to have the package and the experience to match him.

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Ferrari's plans to switch from a V12 engine to a V10 next year will hamper his and the team's initial progress and leave him, like Mansell and Prost, frustrated.

Berger's decision will also

affect the future of Coulthard, who could either replace him at Ferrari if local favourite Nicola Larini does not get the job or move to McLaren himself as Finn Mika Hakkinen's team mate if Berger decides to stay.

Michael Schumacher

much may depend on the future decision to be taken by Austrian Gerhard Berger, who has been Alesi's team mate for the last two years.

He is understood to have the choice of staying with the Italian team as Schumacher's partner or moving back to McLaren as the experienced man needed by engine suppliers Mercedes-Benz.

Berger's decision will also affect the future of Coulthard, who could either replace him at Ferrari if local favourite Nicola Larini does not get the job or move to McLaren himself as Finn Mika Hakkinen's team mate if Berger decides to stay.

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# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1995 11

## Juventus, AC Milan resume bitter rivalry for title

**MILAN, Italy (AP)** — Defending champion Juventus of Turin and AC Milan may be commercial partners but they are not about to strike any deals over the next Italian league title.

"Milan's offense is going to cause headaches for all rivals," Baggio said. "AC Milan will have to test new defensive strategy as captain-sweeper Franco Baresi is again and the all-offense tactics favoured by Mr. Berlusconi — not fully shared by coach Fabio Capello — could make Milan's midfield and defense more vulnerable."

But on the field, the clubs will continue their traditional bitter rivalry as the Italian first division season kicks off Aug. 27.

Former Premier Silvio Berlusconi, the TV magnate and AC Milan president, spent about 40 billion lire (\$25 million) to sign new players and strengthen the team which last season lost both its league title and European Champions Cup titles.

With newly acquired Roberto Baggio, Paolo Futre and George Weah teaming up front with Dejan Savaevic and Marco Simone, offensive potential will not be lacking for Milan.

"I liked seeing the 'scudetto' (championship label) back on our jerseys and I would dare ask for an encore," Mr. Agnelli said.

Juventus, which finished fourth last season after three consecutive league crowns, lost its berth in the champions cup to Juventus and will compete in the less prestigious UEFA Cup.

Baggio's \$19-million move from Juventus to Milan has been the most expensive transfer of the year.

The World Cup hero, whose career has been slowed by recurrent knee problems, left Juventus reluctantly in a contract dispute.

Once at AC Milan, Baggio

quickly proclaimed he had joined, "the strongest Italian team which is going to win the next league title."

"Milan's offense is going to cause headaches for all rivals," Baggio said.

AC Milan will have to test new defensive strategy as captain-sweeper Franco Baresi is again and the all-offense tactics favoured by Mr. Berlusconi — not fully shared by coach Fabio Capello — could make Milan's midfield and defense more vulnerable."

Auto tycoon Giovanni Agnelli, who owns Juventus, regretted the departure of Baggio, the player he once called the Raphael of soccer. However, Mr. Agnelli added he expected Baggio's replacement, Alessandro de Piero, to pick up where the pony-tailed striker left off.

De Piero, who produced outstanding performances for La Juve last season during Baggio's two-month absence due to a knee injury, is expected to become Baggio's successor also on the Italian national team.

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Once at AC Milan, Baggio



Roberto Baggio's \$19-million move from Juventus to Milan has been the most expensive transfer of the year (AFP photo)

at Milan San Siro Stadium Friday night.

While Juventus and Milan are nearly everybody's top choices, they do not have an exclusive hold on the pre-season honours.

UEFA Cup champion Parma, which signed Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov from Barcelona to add to Swedish forward Thomas Brodin and resigned Colombian star Faustino Asprilla, could be a threat.

Parma was impressive in pre-season tournaments in New York and Canada, with Stoichkov and Italian inter-

national Gianfranco Zola producing goals and enter-

taining play.

Lazio, Roma, Fiorentina and Inter all have the potential to mount a title challenge.

Lazio, tied for second with Parma last season, has retained star strikers Giuseppe Signori and Alen Boksic while selling English midfielder Paul Gascoigne to Glasgow Rangers.

Roma improved its offense by adding Italian centre-forward Marco Branca from Parma, adding to its Latin American duo of Daniel Fon-

sca and Abel Balbo.

Fiorentina signed Swedish midfielder Stefan Schwarz to support the scoring Argentine Gabriel Batistuta, last season's leading league striker.

Paul Ince moved from Manchester United to Internazionale Milan, ending the Dutch era of Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk.

Other newcomers in the reshuffled Inter lineup include Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos and young Argentines Pascual Sebastian Ramírez and Javier Zanetti.

Italian veteran coach Giovanni Trapattoni returns to the Italian league, following one season in Germany with Bayern Munich, to lead Capriati.

The Sardinian team, which signed Uruguayan Dario Silva to make up for the departure of Panamanian striker Dely Valdez, could be battling for a UEFA Cup berth along with Sampdoria of Genoa.

La Samp sold most of its old guard players — David Platt, Raúl Gullit, Lombardo, Piero Vierchowod and Vladimir Jugović — to form a young but aggressive team led by newcomers Clarence Seedorf and Christian Karembeu.

Seedorf moved from Ajax Amsterdam after helping the Dutch side to the Championships Cup title over AC Milan. Karenbeu is the first player from New Caledonia in the Italian league.

Turkish forward Sukur Hakan lines up with Torino, which sold striker Andrea Stzenzi to Nottingham Forest and may find itself struggling in the relegation area along with former giant Napoli and promoted Vicenza, Piacenza, Atlanta of Bergamo and Udinese.

## 8 American gymnasts trying to make Olympics a second time

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** —

For gymnasts, maybe more than any athlete, competition doesn't last long.

Since 1948, only 12 American women have gone to two Olympics, only three have made it three times. Since 1920, 28 American men have competed twice in the Olympics, two have gone to three, and one, Alfred Joachim, went to four.

Four women and four men at the National Gymnastics Championships are trying to make a second Olympic team roster.

"This is one of the big events, especially this year because everyone is pointing towards the Olympics," John Roethlisberger said. "This is the groundwork."

Roethlisberger, a three-time collegiate and three-time U.S. national all-around champion, was a member of the 1992 Olympic team. He, Trent Dimas, Fair Lynch and Chris Waller are hoping the nationals will be a springboard to Atlanta.

On the women's side, Dominique Dawes, Shannon Miller, Kerri Strug and Kim Zmeskal would like to repeat.

"If you get to go to two Olympics you're lucky. You have to be 15 to be an Olympian," said Strug, who was the youngest member of the team in 1992. "You might make it again at 19, but 23 would be kind of old."

The four-day nationals began today with Miller, a two-time champion, trying to reclaim the all-around title she won in 1992 and 1993. Last year, Miller was second to Dawes in the all-arounds and event finals.

Miller and Dawes have met once this year, in the computations at the U.S. classic last

month at Hoover, Alabama, where Miller was first and Dawes fourth.

Miller, who won five Olympic medals in Barcelona, has had to learn to cope with her growing body. In Barcelona, Miller was 1.45 metres and weighed 31 kilograms. Now 18, Miller is 1.52 metres and 43 kilograms.

Not only is the flexibility of a 15-year-old gone, maturity also changes the centre of gravity for a female gymnast.

"I'm more focused," said Miller, who won four gold and one silver medal at the Pan American Games this spring. "I know I have a chance to do things in the next year that no one's ever done before."

Karolyi watches up and coming star

Bela Karolyi was a happy man after the first round of the U.S. Gymnastics Championships.

The long-time coach, with a host of former champions to his credit, watched his latest up-and-coming star, 13-year-old Dominique Moceanu, wrap up a solid second in the compulsories in her first event as a senior.

"I'm perfectly satisfied," Karolyi said Wednesday night. "It's a good start in the first competition in her life in the senior division."

The pressure was instead on Shannon Miller.

Miller, who opened on one of her favorite events, the uneven bars, scored a 9.8 to Moceanu for second. She moved into the lead after a 9.825 in the floor exercise and stayed there with another 9.825 on the vault to finish in 1992.

"All four events were crucial," Miller's coach, Steve Nunn, said. "It was nip and tuck out there the whole way."

## Italy's loss is Britain's gain in transfer deals

**LONDON (AP)** — Ruud Gullit lines up for Chelsea, David Platt and Dennis Bergkamp for Arsenal and Andrea Silenzi is preparing himself for Nottingham Forest.

England's premier league, once the poor relation of Italy in terms of finance, starts up Saturday with the one-time stars of Serie A now playing at Stamford Bridge and Highbury instead of San Siro and the Stadio Della Alpi.

Thanks to huge income from TV, the English clubs now can compete with the Italians in terms of transfer fees and contracts. Although England midfielder Paul Ince has made the reverse journey, moving from Manchester United to Inter Milan, the trend has been the other way with British clubs attracting stars from Italy, France, Portugal and Germany.

Paul Gascoigne has moved from Lazio to Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers. French forward David Ginola has transferred from Paris Saint Germain to Newcastle, Brazilian star Marques Isaias will line up for Coventry after his move from Portugal's Benfica and Belgian midfielder Marc Degryse will play for Sheffield Wednesday.

Aston Villa has signed Serbian striker Sava Milosevic from Partizan Belgrade, Queens Park Rangers has Australian midfielder Ned Zelic from Borussia Dortmund and West Ham will have Dutch striker Marc Boogers.

In one of the busiest transfers for merry-go-rounds in recent years, with some 90 million

pounds (\$144 million) changing hands, there have been plenty of internal moves, too, including the British record transfer of Stan Collymore, who travelled from Forest to Liverpool for \$8.5 million pounds (\$13.6 million).

It was that deal that enabled Forest manager Frank Clark to hire Arsenal's Kevin Campbell, Sheffield Wednesday's Chris Bart-Williams and Silenzi, the first Italian international to play for an English club.

A Call Muscle injury likely will keep the former Torino striker out of Saturday's game at Southampton, while Saints' new manager Dave Merrington has the problem of deciding whether to field Bruce Grobbelaar.

The Zimbabwean goalkeeper is one of three players facing bribery charges after a police investigation into match-fixing allegations. The other players are Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu, both of whom are injured and won't be in action.

Because the English Football Association has taken no immediate action against the players, preferring to let the court proceedings run their course, all three are free to continue playing. They are due to appear in court in October.

That is also the month when Eric Cantona makes his return to competitive soccer.

In February, the talented French striker was suspended until the end of September over his Kung-Fu attack on a Crystal Palace fan after he was sent off in a

league game at Selhurst Park. Without Cantona, Manchester United's league and cup form nosedived and the reds ended the season without a trophy, a year after they had won both.

Cantona, who served 120 hours of community service for the assault, demanded a transfer last week — only to be convinced to stay at Old Trafford by manager Alex Ferguson.

United, which sold Ince to Inter, Mark Hughes to Chelsea and is trying to finalize the sale of Andrei Kanchevski to Everton or even Arsenal, starts its campaign at Villa, which is being

reshaped under Brian Little. Defending titlist Blackburn, one of the busiest clubs last year in the transfer market, has been much quieter this time, with Ray Harford replacing Kenny Dalglish as team manager. Dalglish, who led Rovers to their first league title for 31 years, has been moved upstairs as director of soccer at the club.

Rovers start the defence of the title against a Queens Park Rangers team that may struggle now that it no longer has striker Les Ferdinand.

The England forward has moved on to ambitious, big-spending Newcastle, which also has hired Ginola and

Fabrizio Ravanelli.

— by Alan Warriner

(AP Wirephoto)

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Wimbledon's Warren Barton.

"I get a bit annoyed that we're now referred to as moneybags Newcastle," said manager Kevin Keegan, who took over at a time when the club was financially sick and led it to promotion from division one and to sixth in the standings last season.

"We have earned the right to be moneybags United. The staff and players deserve that right because we have put on a brand of football that's attracted full houses before a ball is kicked."

Newcastle hosts Coventry, whose manager Ron Atkinson has had a clearout of five players including striker Roy Wegerle, who now is in the United States and unlikely to return. Among their replacements are English midfielder John Salako and Benfica forward Isaias.

Gullit, moving to English soccer as a sweeper after several seasons in Italy as a creative forward, will line up against FA Cup holder Everton.

Brazil scored all their goals

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Israeli positions under fire in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Hizbullah guerrillas attacked positions of the Israeli army and its proxy militia in South Lebanon early Friday without causing casualties, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said. The guerrillas fired rocket propelled grenades and machine gun fire at the Israeli outpost of Dabshe and shelled the SLA position at Kfarman. About two hours later the Sojod outpost, where both Israeli and SLA forces are deployed, also came under fire. Hizbullah claimed the attacks in a statement released in Beirut. The pro-Iranian guerrillas "scored direct hits on the Dabshe position and a fire broke out," a spokesman said.

## No quick solution to dispute with Iran — UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ruled out on Friday a quick solution to its dispute with Tehran over three Gulf islands occupied by Iran. "It's a thorny question and all signs out of Tehran suggest that a solution is not near" for the dispute over the Abu Musa, Lesser Tumb and Greater Tumb islands, Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, the deputy prime minister, said. The UAE "continues its dialogue and diplomatic activities with Iran to try to modify its outlook on this matter," he said, adding that Tehran's occupation of the strategic islands was "un-Islamic." Sheikh Sultan said his UAE would be forced to take the dispute to the United Nations and other international bodies "to regain its legitimate rights over the islands." The UAE asked Iran in October to accept arbitration by the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Tehran implicitly rejected the demand, saying the islands "belonged to it for eternity."

## Swedish prime minister to resign

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson announced Friday that he will resign as Swedish premier and leader of the Social Democratic Party next year, saying he had succeeded in leading Sweden out of a deep crisis. Mr. Carlsson, 60, will step down as party leader during its congress to be held March 15-20 of next year and would "immediately afterwards" hand in his resignation as prime minister to the speaker of parliament, Birgitta Dahl. Mr. Carlsson would not comment on who he thought would succeed him as the head of the party and government, leaving the choice up to the ruling Social Democratic Party. In power from 1986 to 1991 and again since legislative elections in September 1994, Mr. Carlsson has headed the Social Democratic Party since the assassination of Social Democratic Prime Minister Olof Palme in February 1986. "At the extraordinary congress in 1996, we will leave behind us a period of difficult, but necessary and ultimately successful, decisions. This will be a good time for a new leader to take charge of the Social Democratic party, ahead of the 21st century," Mr. Carlsson said. Summarising his actions as party leader and premier since the party's return to power in September 1994, he recalled his success at bringing Sweden into the European Union in January 1995 and of "having had the strength to take the difficult responsibility" for decisions "necessary" to set the country's economy straight.

## Drug traffickers, forgers bust in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese police have arrested drug traffickers and smashed a counterfeiting ring in a drive to crush organised crime, officials and the press reported on Friday. Well-informed sources linked the crackdown to reports that Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, has lifted its protection of certain Lebanese businessmen in an effort to help Interpol and the Beirut authorities to eradicate crime. A man identified as the leader of a multi-million drug trafficking operation and three women were arrested separately and their testimony led a judge to issue warrants for 15 other people on the run, they said. The four testified they had managed to smuggle 45 kilograms of heroin from Lebanon to the United States, Canada and Europe over the past two years, according to the respected Al Nahar daily quoting unnamed security sources. The women were used as couriers. They swallowed capsules of heroin concealed in surgical gloves and received between \$10,000 and \$25,000 for each run depending on the amount they carried, the report said. A judge also issued several arrest warrants for suspected counterfeiters who are believed to have distributed around \$25 million in fake notes and one million forged marks in the Middle East and Europe, the report said.

## Algeria announces Nov. 16 as date for election

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria on Friday announced Nov. 16 as the date for presidential voting rejected by the opposition and by outlawed Islamic fundamentalists waging war against the government. President Lamine Zeroual proposed the date to Algerian political parties and leaders who support the election under the terms set by the government, and they accepted it, presidential spokesman Mihoub Mihoubi told the state-run news agency APS. The banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the main legal opposition parties have rejected the terms set by the government for the voting. Algeria has been torn by violence since the army stepped in to cancel January 1992 elections that the FIS was poised to win. The war has claimed an estimated 30,000 lives.

## 4 Sudan rebels executed by SPLA

KAMPALA (R) — Sudanese rebels executed four of their men by firing squad for killing two Ugandans who had allegedly failed to pay for weapons, witnesses said on Friday. They told Reuters the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) executed four rebel private rates late last month in South Sudan at Pagea, eight km (five miles) north of the border with Uganda. Six northern Ugandan leaders were taken to witness the killings. The northern Ugandan leaders told Reuters the four SPLA fighters had regularly sold AK-47 assault rifles to the two Ugandans who sold them on to the cattle-raising Karamojong tribe. But the two Ugandans were murdered after they said they could not pay for one set of weapons as they had been stolen.

## Engine blast behind U.S. 'copter crash

NICOSIA (AP) — Investigators are checking reports that an engine explosion may have caused the crash of a U.S. military helicopter earlier this week. A U.S. diplomat said Friday. "It is not clear yet what caused the crash but indications are it was an accident," said Alejandro Wolff, a U.S. embassy charge d'affaires. "A report that the crash was preceded by an explosion in one of the engines is also being investigated," Mr. Wolff said. Cyprus police patrol boats continued searching Friday for the four U.S. airmen, who have been missing since their Black Hawk helicopter crashed about five kilometres south of the fishing port of Ziyi. Mr. Wolff said a U.S. navy salvage vessel was due off Ziyi to try to recover the main wreckage of the helicopter, which is at a depth of about 20 metres.

## Over 70 killed in Morocco flash floods

RABAT (AFP) — Flash flooding triggered by heavy rains has killed at least 73 people in southern Morocco, officials said. The Marrakesh area was whipsawed overnight by violent storms which came after months of severe drought. Heavy loss of life and material damage were registered in the village of St. Fatima, Ourika, Moulay Brahim, Ourigane and Zerkane, officials said. Authorities went to the scene of the disaster to provide aid to the beleaguered population and King Hassan II gave orders for relief material to be sent to the area.



A police patrol check the identity papers of a man on the Champs-Elysees in Paris following a bomb explosion, the second in the French capital in a month (AFP photo)

## Second Paris blast in one month raises French fear

PARIS (Agencies) — As police maintained a huge security presence in the French capital on Friday, following the second bomb in the city centre in three weeks, authorities admitted they had few leads to go on.

"At this point in the investigation, nothing allows us to conclude that the same people are responsible for both attacks," a police spokesman said.

One thing, however, was clear, police said: The bomb was intended to kill.

The rush-hour blast sprayed 12-centimetre nails and hex nuts into a crowded street in the tourist heart of Paris injuring 17 people, ten of them foreign visitors.

It was the same kind as the one that exploded in a subway station in the crowded Latin quarter last month, killing seven and injuring 84.

A total of 1,200 mobile security officers were placed at strategic points round the city and another 16,000 uniformed officers ensured a strong police presence in public areas, in subways and railway stations.

The mayor of Paris appealed to Parisians to stay calm.

Speaking on French Radio Mayor Jean Tiberi said Parisians should "remain vigilant" and "not fall into the trap of provocation and fear."

"No-one can say if we are in the middle of a series of attacks," even if "we may always fear that," Mr. Tiberi said.

He praised the French and the tourists for conducting themselves with "calmness and serenity" both after the explosion in a subway station and after Thursday's blast.

Nine people were still receiving hospital treatment after Thursday's blast, authorities said.

Several witnesses, most of them foreign tourists, offered their amateur video film to the authorities but none was able to throw light on any suspects, police said.

Three were in a serious condition. An eight-year-old Italian boy had first and second degree burns to an arms and may have suffered lung damage from the blast, hospital authorities said. A 60-year-old British woman, Patricia Hudson, was being treated for shrapnel wounds to her legs, according to British press, and a 23-year-old Portuguese man was also badly hurt, the hospital said.

An Italian woman and her three-year-old child, four members of a Hungarian family had received lesser injuries.

Crowds of curious tourists and Parisians gathered at the bomb site on Avenue Friedland, a stone's throw from the famed Champs-Elysees, on Friday morning. Some took photographs of three iron bolts in the ground — all that remained of the gold-tipped garbage can where the bomb was hidden.

Analysts were united in naming Algerian fundamentalist militants as the number one suspect to have carried out both attacks.

The murderous July 29 explosion at the Saint Michel metro station also injured more than 80 people.

"People were here from 6.30 a.m. when we opened," said the salesman at the newspaper kiosk just metres from the blast.

A postcard stand positioned at the side of the kiosk nearest the garbage can protected them from injury, his female colleague said, still in shock from the attack.

Several witnesses, most of them foreign tourists, offered their amateur video film to the authorities but none was able to throw light on any suspects, police said.

Among new security measures introduced Friday morning, police cordoned off the pavement outside the Elysee presidential palace of Jacques Chirac, only opened to the public last month as part of the new head of state's drive for openness.

Litter bins had already been sealed up in all metro stations since the Saint Michel subway attack, but those above ground have so far remained unaffected. It was not clear what other measures would be announced following the new blast.

Analysts were united in naming Algerian fundamentalist militants as the number one suspect to have carried out both attacks.

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## China test seen as aimed at securing nuclear might

BEIJING (Agencies) — China's latest nuclear test shows it is scrambling to upgrade its nuclear arsenal, including an offensive capability, as the clock ticks towards a possible comprehensive test ban, analysts said on Friday.

"The Chinese have a programme of tests and are under pressure to get it done and make their improvements before the expected comprehensive test ban treaty in 1996," one diplomat said.

China whipped up anti-nuclear passions on Thursday by conducting an underground nuclear test that provoked furious condemnation from around the world.

The blast at the Lop Nor test site at 9 a.m. (0100 GMT) created a shock registering 5.6 on the Richter scale, the Australian Geological Survey Organisation said in Canberra.

It was China's second nuclear explosion in three months and, with feelings around the world already running high at France's planned South Pacific tests, reaction was immediate.

Military analysts said the latest test was expected, the last of two that had been anticipated for 1995 in a programme expected to see three more in 1996. China traditionally carries out tests

in May-June and September-October because of climate conditions at Lop Nor in the desert of remote Western Xinjiang.

"The new tests are to develop a better offensive capability, not a defensive one," Robert Karniol, Asia/Pacific editor of Jane's Defence Weekly, said by telephone from Bangkok. "These are strategic not tactical tests. They are not purely defensive."

"They are looking for improved range and guidance for their missiles," he said.

Analysts said they were to improve miniaturisation of its nuclear devices.

Asian and European nations cried out against the nuclear test, calling it a betrayal of the movement towards scrapping nuclear weapons worldwide.

Japan said it may curtail financial aid to China as a result of the test. It made a similar threat after a previous Chinese nuclear test in May, but still has not decided whether to reduce grants, or by how much.

Japan gave China \$95 million in grants last year, plus \$1.7 billion in low-cost loans. The loans would be unaffected.

Government spokesman

Koken Nosaka called the new test "extremely regrettable" and said the need to "stop nuclear tests is one of the most important issues in the world today.... We implore China to make sure it does not repeat its nuclear test."

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono also summoned Chinese Ambassador Xu Dunxin to register Japan's displeasure with the latest test, a Beijing Foreign Ministry official said.

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"Such a development would be a serious threat to world peace," Mr. Keating said.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry also expressed "deep concern and regret."

(Continued on page 3)

## Palestinian police clash with Hamas

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police engaged in a gunbattle with militants Friday during an attempt to arrest a fugitive gunman, witnesses said.

Some 200 policemen armed with assault rifles surrounded a house in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood Friday afternoon and tried to detain Ibrahim Nafar, a member of the Izzedin Al Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the militant group Hamas.

A firefight ensued, but police failed to take Nafar.

It was not immediately clear whether anyone was hurt.

Palestinian police have been hunting for four Islamic militants suspected of planning a suicide attack in Israel. The Gaza Strip has been sealed by Israel for more than a week to prevent a suicide bomber from entering Israel.

"We are working all the time to halt the suicide bombers who want to carry out attacks against Israel and we arrested one on Tuesday," said a police official who refused to be named.

"We are still searching for another suspect," he added.

The man held, who was not named, was among four detained this week following a tip-off that Hamas was planning to blow up a car packed with explosives in the heart of Tel Aviv.

The second suspect has been identified as Wael Nasar, 23, a Hamas member from Gaza City. He has gone into hiding.

Palestinian security services last week alerted Israel, which has faced a wave of suicide bombings in the last 18 months that have killed dozens of people.

As a preventive measure, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin decided to seal off the Gaza Strip from Israel on Aug. 10 and to review the situation daily.

The closure, which stops 16,800 Gazans from working in Israel, is set to remain in force until at least dawn Sunday.

The Palestinian National Authority has demanded that the closure be lifted.

Earlier Friday, Hamas followers burned American and Israeli flags to protest against the detention of the group's political leader, Musa Abu Marzouk, in the United States.

Hamas reiterated warnings that the United States and Israel will "pay dearly" if Mr. Abu Marzouk is extradited to Israel.

The warning came in a leaflet handed out to hundreds of worshippers at Hamas-controlled mosques in the Gaza Strip. Hamas activists burned Israeli and U.S. flags.

"It's no secret that the (Bill) Clinton administration has become a Zionist tool...it's only worry is to carry out Israel's orders," said the Hamas leaflet.

"The American people should know that the continued detention of Abu Marzouk will turn the American public into a scapegoat."

Mr. Abu Marzouk was arrested at New York's Kennedy international airport on July 25. U.S. immigration inspectors said his name had recently been added to a list of suspected "terrorists."

Israel put out a warrant for his arrest, contending that Mr. Abu Marzouk ordered attacks on Israeli citizens and soldiers and sent money to Hamas activists in the West Bank and Gaza for buying weapons.

The U.S. government has begun extradition proceedings against Mr. Abu Marzouk.

At the Salaheddin Mosque in Gaza City, worshippers cheered as U.S. and Israeli flags went up in flames.

## COLUMN 8

Prince Andrew angered by Fergie snub — paper

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Andrew is angry that his estranged wife Sarah Ferguson has been barred from all VIP events marking the 50th anniversary of victory over Japan, a newspaper said Friday. Queen Elizabeth will be joined by other members of the royal family, including Princess Diana, for the events but Prince Andrew's estranged wife has not been included. "The prince feels slighted that she has been treated this way," the Daily Mirror quoted a friend as saying. "Previously he has asked for the duchess to be included in royal gatherings paying tribute at events like the VE weekend of celebrations but has been overruled." Prince Andrew, popularly known as "Fergie," and their two young daughters in Spain, sparked speculation in the British press that they could be heading for a reconciliation. Unlike Prince Charles and his estranged wife, Princess Diana, Prince Andrew and his wife have remained on good terms since their separation.

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